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Champion
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Support for Men-Aces' ground plea

Co-op staff bank funds for worthy causes

Bumper Skem crowd could boost Alfie fund

A LOCAL charity could be set to benefit from an expected bumper crowd at Skelmersdale United FC's Stormy Corner ground next Tuesday (April 14).

Club officials believe the visit of Evo–Stik Premier Division pacesetters, FC United of Manchester could attract a record gate of up to 2,000 – which should be good news for The Alfie Lund Fund, as well as the club.

Six–year–old Alfie (above) from Burscough is one of only a handful of children in the UK and approximately 120 in the world suffering from MECP2 duplication syndrome, a chromosome abnormality that causes him severe learning difficulties.

The fund aims to raise awareness into this devastating disorder and funds for specialist equipment for Alfie.

Meanwhile his dad has found a novel way of raising money by asking people to donate football scarves and has now got enough to go around an entire football pitch. He will be taking them along on the night and surrounding the pitch with them.

There will also be a collection on the night and it is understood that the FC United supporters have kindly agreed to help out.

RUSSIA HONOURS ARCTIC CONVOY VETERAN JACK

By **Henry James**

A SECOND World War veteran who braved what Winston Churchill is said to have described as "the worst journey in the world" has been awarded a medal by Russia – 70 years after the end of the war.

Jack Norman Hall served on the Arctic Convoys which braved the icy seas and being targeted by German aircraft and U–boats to deliver vital supplies to the then Soviet Union.

Named Operation Dervish, the Arctic Convoy campaign pitched the ships and their intrepid crews against the extreme cold, ice floes and storms, as well as the constant threat of German attack.

More than 3,000 men died making the journey, with 104 merchant and 16 military vessels lost.

Now 93–year–old Jack from Fairlie, Skelmersdale has been awarded the country's Medal of Ushakov after his family applied to the Russian Embassy.

He was presented with the medal by the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Doreen Stephenson, at a special ceremony organised by the council and held at the council offices in Ormskirk.

During the 1939–45 war, Jack, who is also the proud holder of the Arctic Star and the Arctic Emblem medals, served as a gunner on the convoys which took supplies from Liverpool to Russia via the Arctic Circle.

He even survived one of the vessels he was on being torpedoed which led to him spending time in hospital.

After applying for the medal on his dad's behalf, Jack's eldest son, Norman had to travel to the Russian Embassy in London to collect it.

• *Continued inside*

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Doreen Stephenson presents Jack Norman Hall with the Medal of Ushakov. Code1079478

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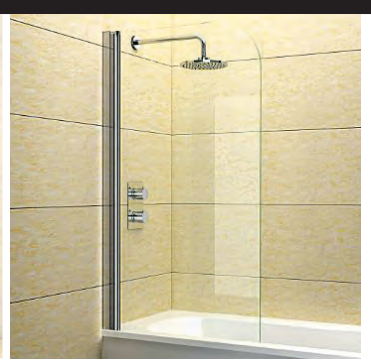

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Borough to benefit from funding for early action plan to tackle crime

WEST Lancashire is set to benefit from £2.2million of funding aimed at tackling crime across the county.

Following a successful bid by Lancashire police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw and Lancashire Constabulary, the Home Office will provide the extra funding for an innovative early action programme aimed at fighting crime and re–offending and helping vulnerable residents and those afraid of organised crime gangs.

The project will see a range of initiatives aimed at preventing vulnerable people falling into a life of crime or joining gangs and ensuring Lancashire Police have the have additional resources to pursue criminals likely to cause serious harm.

These include:

• Mental health staff deployed within the constabulary's contact centre providing vital support at key times.

• Exploring the use of GPS technology to help keep track of vulnerable people suffering from dementia who may be reported missing regularly.

Clive Grunshaw

• Key workers to reduce re–offending.

• Extra ambulance workers in each early action team to work with high–intensive users.

• Investment in case management technology to improve communications across agencies.

The bid will be supported by other agencies such as councils, health partners, North West Ambulance Services and charities across Lancashire and aims to mobilise communities into helping prevent crime and support initiatives to stop re–offending.

Clive Grunshaw said: "I am delighted that the Home Office has awarded this funding so we can further develop our approach to early action to tackle major issues right across Lancashire.

"My police and crime plan priorities included tackling crime and re–offending and protecting vulnerable people and this bid will form a key part of that delivery. The benefits of this programme centre on reducing vulnerability and crime, improving the wellbeing of our communities and improving the life chances of those involved in or at risk of engaging in organised crime."

The funding will go towards providing a strategic lead with overall responsibility for the two–year programme along with key workers to support vulnerable groups, work with gangs and engage with local communities. The project will be subject to an academic evaluation to ensure the full benefit of early action is evaluated and embedded into future working.

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Town gets behind Men–Aces' petition

1,200 sign up to support team's campaign for new ground and after–match facilities

The Men–Aces with their petition **Code NA**

Report by **Henry James**

THE Skem Men–Aces disability football team collected a staggering 1,200 signatures in the Concourse shopping centre on Good Friday in support of their campaign for a new ground and facilities.

The team who travel all over Britain covering many hundreds of miles want somewhere where they can invite teams back to socialise after matches.

At present the team, which has been going for five–and–a–half years, plays indoors at West Lancashire College in winter and outdoors at Glenburn Sports College fields when the weather is better.

However, there is limited disabled access at the latter and neither has facilities to enable them to enjoy after–game socialising.

Carl Eaton, manager of the Men–Aces, said: "It would be so nice to be able to invite teams to us without having the pressure of getting off the pitch, or out of the changing rooms – somewhere where visiting teams can be safe and relaxed and enjoy a bit of social time after the match with a hot drink and a sandwich etc."

Wonderful

Following Good Friday's event, Carl added: "Once again the wonderful Skelmersdale community stepped up to the plate and showed their support. While I truly believed the support would be good, never did I envisage that it would be as over whelming as it turned out to be.

"If I ever had any doubt of the true popularity of this wonderful club then these thoughts will never cross my mind again. We are all totally shocked and staggered to have collected an amazing total of more than 1,200 signatures in just a few hours.

"Everyone – the old, the young, businesspeople and shoppers – gave their valuable time to show support and had a genuine and sincere interest.

"I would like to thank each and every person that signed our petition and I absolutely know for certain that we will eventually have our hard work acknowledged and that the dream of our own ground and facilities will soon become a reality."

06 Vauxhall Motors have said that if West Lancs Council allocate the team some land, they will pay for the building.

The club has also set up an online petition and within the first few hours they got 400 signatures and good luck messages from around the world.

Residents who want to sign the online petition should do a web search for Skem Men–aces

Residents team up to tackle litter problem

Bags of rubbish collected by the residents clean–up squad

A GROUP of community–minded residents have teamed up to form their own litter–picking squads to clean up the town.

The campaigners claim that litter, household rubbish, illegal fly–tipping and dog fouling is "swamping" Skelmersdale.

William Middleton from Ashurst, who has joined up with fellow residents trying to clear as much rubbish as they can, said: "Many of Skelmersdale's green fields, woodland and verges separating the estates are increasingly being swamped with litter, household rubbish, illegal fly–tipping and dog fouling.

"To compound this, many of the subways I use are littered with rubbish and broken glass. I often have to avoid these areas to prevent my dogs getting injured.

"Ive complained to the council in the past about the subways and been told that they are cleaned on a rota basis but I can assure you that not all the subways are cleaned on a regular schedule.

"I have joined up with other residents who are totally fed up with all the rubbish and litter in the area and have tried to clear as much rubbish as we can.

"I don't believe that the residents of Skelmersdale are expecting too much to live in an area that is kept reasonably clean and a litter–free environment. However there is plenty of evidence, around the community, to suggest that reasonable is not realistic when it comes to keeping Skelmersdale tidy.

"It's definitely not acceptable to expect residents to tolerate such poor services and take it upon themselves to clear away the rubbish from our streets."

A borough council spokesman responded: "The council encourages all residents and visitors to West Lancashire to behave in a responsible manner with regard to the disposal of litter, waste and redundant household items. To this end we have around 800 litter bins, 250 dog waste bins, two household waste recycling centres, and we provide household collections of residual waste, recyclate and bulky household items.

"The council also pursues individuals who do not dispose of their waste responsibly and our environmental enforcement officers will take action against any individual, if it is proven that they have fly–tipped waste, deliberately drop litter or do not dispose of dog mess properly.

"We would encourage residents to report incidents of this nature. Problems with fly–tipping or dog fouling can be reported 24 hours a day on our website or by calling customer services on 01695 577177 between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

"We also support a number of community–based groups, parish councils, schools and others who carry out excellent work across the borough."

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Merseyrail to extend police point lease at Town Green station

By Danielle Thompson

MERSEYRAIL have confirmed that they will be issuing Lancashire Police with an extension to their current lease at Town Green railway station.

Under the previous agreement, a deal brokered by prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for West Lancs, Rosie Cooper and Aughton Parish Council in 2012, the police point had a lease to be in place until March 29.

Now, following an approach by Ms Cooper, Merseyrail, will be issuing a 'Tenancy at Will' to Lancashire Police which allows them to remain in occupation.

A further sub–lease to ensure the long–term future of the police point will follow once Network Rail have issued Merseyrail with a new lease agreement for all stations and depots.

Rosie Cooper said: "The tenancy extension and the willingness for a longer term agreement to keep Aughton police point open is fantastic news. Merseyrail have been supportive in issuing this Tenancy at Will. Aughton Parish Council, Lancashire Police and local residents will be pleased that the Aughton police point will continue."

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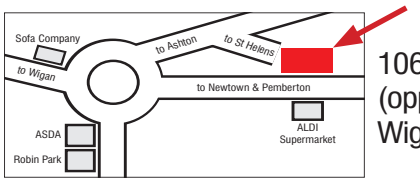

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Big–hearted Co–op staff aim to bank cash for worthy causes

Teams and representatives from Cardiac Risk in the Young and Claire House Childrens Hospice at the sponsored football match
Code1078458

BIG–hearted bank workers have been busy raising money for two worthy causes.

Staff based at the Co–operative Bank's Delf House headquarters in Southway, Skelmersdale are aiming to boost funds for the Cardiac Risk in the Young (Cry) charity and Claire House Children's Hospice.

They recently staged a sponsored football match at Glenburn Sports College's all–weather pitch and all the monies they raise during March and April will be split between the two causes.

The money for Cry will go towards their next heart–screening sessions.

These are organised by the family of promising footballer John Marshall from Ormskirk.

The 16–year–old, an England schools star who was about to sign for Everton, died from a heart attack in 1995.

John suffered from Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy, a previously undiagnosed heart condition.

According to the charity, 80% of apparently healthy 14 to 35–year–olds who die from young sudden cardiac death will have shown no previous sign of heart defects.

It says sudden death syndrome killed hundreds of young people – many of whom were involved in sport. The charity said sport did not cause the problem, but it could exacerbate an existing undiagnosed condition and the high risk group is the young.

The Marshall family have now held six free heart screenings in memory of John. The last of these was at the end of February at Edge Hill University, and it enabled 200 young people to have their hearts tested over the two days free of charge.

Those that attend receive a simple ECG test that takes no longer than five minutes and is performed by local nurses. They are also seen by the Cry doctor, and if felt necessary, an echocardiogram is offered.

Hayley Crosbie, John Marshall's sister, said: "My mum, Maureen, and I are overwhelmed by the support. It's fantastic that they have chosen Cry and we thank the employees so much for putting it in place.

"The match was brilliant and everyone enjoyed it.

"The other fundraising activities they have organised have been just as good, such as the pyjama day at work at the Co–operative Bank in Skem which was great fun as well as raising money for two great causes.

"Events like these help to raise awareness for Cry and it's amazing that more and more people know our story.

"The money raised will go towards the next screening and we aim to collect £3,500 which will allow 100 people to be screened."

Funds raised for Claire House wil help the Wirral–based hospice continue its work on behalf of children with life–threatening or life–limiting conditions and their families.

Application to build accommodation block at fire station

Skelmersdale Fire Station.

Report by **Henry James**

A PROPOSAL has been submitted to build a new accommodation block at Skelmersdale Fire Station.

It follows the announcement of new staffing practices to be introduced at the station on Tanhouse Road.

The proposed building would provide accommodation for five fire fighters – and possibly families wishing to stay over at the weekend.

Explaining the need for the accommodation, agents, Equilibrium Architects, wrote: "The proposed accommodation block is required because of changes which are being introduced by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to deliver a more cost–effective and efficient service, while maintaining the same level of fire fighting cover throughout the Skelmersdale area.

"The revised staffing proposals have come about because fire stations today generally have low call out levels during the night and fire fighters also welcome the opportunity of working more flexibly to suit their home lives.

"The proposals will mean that stand–by cover is provided at night which will either require fire fighters to live close enough to the station to meet current response times or that they are housed within suitable accommodation on site if they currently live some distance away."

The proposed development would be on an 'island' site located off the B5312, the main arterial road running through Skelmersdale town centre.

The agents believe the site is a "sufficient" distance from the nearest residential properties and claim "very little, if any, loss of amenity" will result.

They added the external appearance of the building has been designed to be, "simple in both its form and use of a limited palette of materials to reflect the scale, form and appearance of the fire station."

And the scale of the development was "purposely domestic" to sit within the rear site area and located to nearby dwelling houses.

Residents have been notified of the application and have until Wednesday, April 15 to respond.

The West Lancs Council are expected to make a decision on the application by May 15.

Russians honour Arctic Convoy veteran Jack

• continued from Page 1

He said: "Dad wasn't well enough to travel down in person so I had to go to the Russian Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens to collect it.

"Because the medal is a state medal it has to be handed over formally, the Russians are not allowed to post it out.

"There was tight security at the embassy and the ambassador said that if it was not for the likes of my dad, the Russians would be speaking German now! They were very grateful for his efforts.

"Dad doesn't really like talking about the war. He has five sons and five daughters and we all got together to celebrate his award when I got back from London."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council said: "The council was asked if the mayor could formally present the medal to Mr Hall by a friend of the family, who indicated that otherwise he would have had to travel to London to receive it which would have been difficult for him.

"The mayor felt honoured to be able to carry out this task and thoroughly enjoyed meeting Mr Hall and his family."

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Bailiffs a last resort for local authority

Council responds to 'scare tactics' claim over council tax debt

A SPOKESMAN for West Lancs Council says they only send in bailiffs over council tax arrears "when all other avenues have been fully exhausted."

The authority was responding to a report by The Children's Society which claimed that councils in the North West sent bailiffs to chase unpaid council tax almost a quarter of a million times last year – leaving children frightened and worried.

The report said council tax debt is widespread in the region with almost 180,000 children living in 104,000 families who have fallen behind with their bills. In West Lancashire the estmated figures were more than 2,700 and 1,500 respectively.

The Children's Society claims that local authorities are threatening struggling households with court action and sending bailiffs round to family homes, often when children are at home, often leaving youngsters frightened, sad or worried.

Based on a survey of 4,500 parents and Freedom of Information responses from local authorities, the report, The Wolf at the Door: How Council Tax Debt Collection is Harming Children, finds that more than one in 10 families in the UK have experienced council tax debt, with average arrears reaching £420. That means up to 1.6m children will have been affected.

Rob Jackson, North West area director for The Children's Society, said: "Our report reveals that far too many families are failed by their council when they fall behind with council tax.

"Bailiffs should not be sent round to families with children. Councils should give struggling residents a chance to negotiate affordable repayments and make sure every family in trouble is offered independent advice. Every child and teenager deserves to feel safe in their own home without being scared of the next knock at the door."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council said: "The council recognises that on occasion some families may struggle to pay their council tax and can face genuine financial difficulties and the council offers a support scheme to assist people on lower incomes. However, all local authorities are legally required to collect council tax and the money raised funds the continuation of vital council services.

"The Children's Society figures are estimates and in West Lancashire only a small percentage of cases have involved the use of bailiffs over the last year.

"People do not lose the right to pay by instalments after missing one payment. Instead, we initially write to them reminding them to make good the late payment. Staff will make a number of other attempts to make reasonable arrangements for the money to be re–paid. Cases are only referred to the bailiffs when all other avenues have been fully exhausted.

"The council works with its enforcement agency to ensure that individual cases where genuine hardship and vulnerability has been identified are handled both sensitively and appropriately. Cases are handled according to best practice, and in line with the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act.

"Anyone who is having difficulties paying their council tax should ring the council tax section on 0300 7900381 or email council.tax@westlancs.gov.uk."

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1138945

Kicks scheme proving a winner with youngsters

Report by **Henry James**

A SCHEME which aims to give anti–social behaviour the boot by involving youngsters in community–led football coaching sessions is proving a winner, according to organisers.

The Kicks scheme sees Wigan Athletic FC's Community Trust teaming up with fire crews from Skelmersdale fire station and staff from the Evermoor Hub in Digmoor to engage local youngsters and drive down anti–social behaviour.

The football coaching project is free to attend and is aimed at youngsters – both male and female – aged between eight and 17 in the Tanhouse and Digmoor areas of Skelmersdale.

The sessions run twice a week from 6 to 8pm with the fire station in Tanhouse Road hosting the event on Thursdays and the Evermoor Hub in Digmoor on Fridays.

Station manager for Skelmersdale, Frank Robinson, said: "Youth intervention activities like this provide a really fantastic opportunity for young people to get together in a safe and secure environment where they can play sports and receive coaching from FA–accredited staff.

Some of the young people who have been involved in the Kicks project in Skelmersdale

"For us, as a fire and rescue service we have the opportunity to build on our community relations away from our normal day–to–day work and hopefully have a positive impact on these young people's lives. The fact that there has been such an enthusiastic response from young people in the area who come along and join in each week is really positive."

The events have been running for just over four weeks now and most recently the Skelmersdale Kicks team played against another Kicks team from Everton. This match proved a real highlight of the project so far, with players selected for the match based on their attendance each week and on their behaviour.

Wesley Partington from Wigan Athletic Community Trust said: "Everyone really enjoyed it and now others have seen what they can achieve it will hopefully motivate them to keep coming."

Organisers have said with further funding allocated for another 34 weeks and the potential for more in the future, the programme looks set to build on what it has achieved so far and go from strength to strength.

Flats plan for vacant pub site

The former Almond Tree public house on Abbeystead, Digmoor. Code1079505

A VACANT pub in Digmoor could be demolished to make way for residential accommodation, if plans submitted to West Lancs Council get the go–ahead.

Agents RJG Architectural Design Services, acting for the applicant, Blackburn Property Limited, propose to replace The Almond Tree in Abbeystead with a block of 12 flats over two flloors.

Also included in the site is a play area which the architects say is "of minimal use as there are numerous similar play areas nearby."

Their submission also claims that the pub, which has been closed for two years, has no "architectural merit" and the design is dated.

They add that it is "doubtful" the business would re–open and claim that "having well–designed flats with improved parking and green space would add more to the area than a vacant public house."

A police crime impact statement for the application said that the pub had become an attraction for anti–social behaviour due to the derelict state of the building.

Local residents have until Monday, April 20 to comment and the council is expected to make a decision on the application by June 26.

Distinctive crash helmet could help police track pharmacy robber

POLICE officers hunting an armed robber who made off with drugs following a raid at a pharmacy hope that images of the distinctive crash helmet that he wore during the raid might help them to track down the culprit.

The man threatened staff at Rowlands Pharmacy in Dingle Road, Up Holland with a knife before making off with supplies of codeine and morphine at around 5pm on Monday, February 16.

CCTV images showed the robber wearing a crash helmet and officers are asking members of the public to contact them if they know someone who has a similar one.

Anyone with information can contact DC Mason direct on 01695 566148 or via email michael.mason@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Alternatively they can contact Lancashire Police on 101 or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The incident happened at around 5pm on Monday, February 16 at Rowlands Pharmacy on Dingle Road, Up Holland.

A helmet similar to the one worn by the pharmacy robber

The robber is described as being at least 30 years of age, at least six ft tall and of stocky build. He spoke with a northern/Lancashire accent.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success.*'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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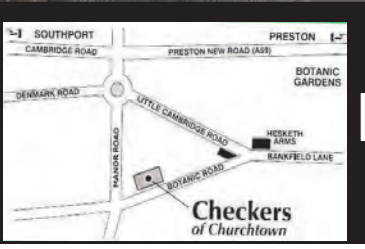

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1139064

Tributes paid to member of famous cup run squad

Colin Bridge pictured with his long–awaited cup final medal

Report by **Henry James**

TRIBUTES have been paid to Colin Bridge, one of the heroes of Skelmersdale United's famous run to the final of the FA Amateur Cup in 1967, who died last month after a brave battle with throat cancer at the age of 71.

Colin played left back in that Wembley final which captured the imaginaton of the nation, pitting 'little' Skem against the then mighty Enfield in front of a 75,000 crowd.

The game ended in a goalless draw with Colin having to go off injured. As a result he missed the replay at Maine Road – won by Enfield 3–0 – with Alan McDermott taking his place and picking up a runners–up medal and leaving Colin without a treasured memento of that memorable occasion, despite lobbying the FA for more than 40 years.

However, the Champion reported in January how Alan gave his medal to Colin at Goodison Park in a special ceremony organised and attended by former Everton star, Graeme Sharp, ex–Liverpool striker David Fairclough and some of Colin's former teammates.

David Fairclough, a long–standing friend of Colin's, said: "Colin was a good friend and I heard about his great times playing for Skelmersdale United in the 1960s and in the final in 1967. Playing in an Amateur Cup final at Wembley was a fantastic achievement and at the time Skelmersdale were making a name for themselves nationally.

"The fact that he was remembered so fondly by his teammates emphasises the important part he played in the team. They had a good team spirit and they were never taken lightly by the opposition.

"And despite his illness, he was still playing 7–a–side football up to a year ago.

"As well as his love of sport, Colin will be remembered for his humour."

Another friend, Colin Turner, who took the photographs at the medal presentation, said: "Colin was well–liked and respected and will be sadly missed."

Colin, whose funeral was held at St Bernadette's Church in Liverpool, leaves a wife, Eileen, and three daughters, Katie, Kerry and Sarah.

Some of the youngsters and staff at Giggles nursery show off their Easter bonnets

Hats the way to celebrate Easter…

STAFF and youngsters at the Giggles Day Nursery sported a natty line in headwear to celebrate the Easter holiday.

The Easter Bonnet Parade at the nursery in the former Inskip Meeting Rooms in Birch Green proved a colourful occasion, thanks to the efforts of parents.

A spokesperson for the nursery said: "We want to say a big thank–you to all the parents for their wonderful creations."

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EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
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Free activity sessions for town's youngsters

SKELMERSDALE Action for Youth (SAY) and The Artz Centre have received funding to set up sessions which aim to encourage young people in the town to become more active.

Funding for the session has been received from the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's community grant programme and from Comic Relief.

As part of the groups' spring lifestyles programme, Let's Get Active, there will be a day of activities on Friday (April 10) from 10am to 4pm at The Artz Centre in Birch Green.

SAY and Artz are delivering the sessions with the early action team at Lancashire Police, along with agencies from the voluntary and statutory sector.

During the day those who attend will be able to have a go at drama, photography, Zumba, big ball, crossbows and Crazy Carting for free.

All activities are suitable for boys and girls from the age of seven upwards but anyone attending should take a packed lunch and something to drink.

Throughout the spring and summer holidays SAY will run a number of free one–hour sessions of 'fun and creative' activities. These will include street dance, drama, big ball sessions, turfboarding and football sessions with Wigan Community Trust at Skelmersdale fire station and Evermoor Hub (formerly Digmoor Community Centre).

Meanwhile, a number of young people involved with SAY and The Artz Centre are working towards their 100 and 200–hour volunteer awards.

Alan Lewis from SAY said: "The programme is an innovative collection of activities delivered in a fun and interactive style and designed to have an immediate impact on young people and residents, as well as encouraging the young people to interact with local multi agencies and other groups of the community.

Alan Lewis from Skelmesdale Action for Youth

"Many young people spend a lot of time playing on video games, watching TV or using online media, or, unfortunately, getting involved in anti–social behaviour.

"This project is a great way to get the young people within their local neighbourhood active. It also helps to address a number of issues, like reducing boredom, anti–social behaviour and crime.

"The sessions aim to develop physical fitness through positive exercise, help people to lose weight, build participants' confidence and self–esteem and break down the barriers between the police and young people. And best of all they are free."

For more information contact Alan Lewis at alan.say@hotmail.co.uk.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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So, what's the answer to town's illegal biking menace?

RE: Ilegal motor cycle/quad bike riders in Skelmersdale.

You may have seen footage of a young quad bike rider in Liverpool risking life and limb to himself and, more importantly, to legal road–users by riding the wrong way up a one–way street.

It's an ongoing problem in the area.

It has been reported that Liverpool police have made arrests and raided homes.

Well, if the idiot bike riders need somewhere to ride their bikes, they can come to Skelmersdale!

It's a free–for–all because they don't need tax and insurance, proper gear, can ride on or off–road and can use the wheelchair ramps for ease.

We have even seen one such rider, with a passenger, using the lollipop patrol at Trinity School to cross the two roads, Kiln Lane and Church Road.

They are full of bravado and confidence and some very young which beggars the question how and where do they obtain the petrol?

This has been reported to Skelmersdale police, even supplying photographic evidence, but they cannot give chase, even if they happen to be in the area, in case the little darlings (the bike riders not the police) fall off their machines and hurt themselves. Well, we can't have that now, can we!

So, what is the answer?

Worried Old Skelmersdale resident, by email

Why don't HMO lot pay council tax like the rest of us?

I AM 78 years old and I still pay council tax so why don't students living in Houses of Multiple Occupancy or their landlords pay?

It's wrong that nobody is paying council tax for these properties.

I know that students don't have a lot of money and are studying for a better future, but they are still using the facilities that the rest of us have to pay for so their landlords should instead be held accountable and made to pay the council tax for the property.

It's not fair that landlords can get rich basically off the back of the hard–working, council tax–paying residents.

OAP, Ormskirk,
name and address supplied

Time to urge our politicians to act on tax loopholes

WITH food banks now in abundance, the NHS in a shambles, young people without a future and welfare attacks upon the poor and disabled, how can the present government justify another £12 billion in welfare cuts when billionaires do not pay taxes?

Of course, tax evasion is not against the law, that's because the same rich elite write these laws.

I write this letter asking readers to email their MP candidates to promise they will tackle tax dodging.

The test of whether they'll take action is if they promise to close the Mayfair tax loophole, which costs the UK up to £700m a year.

George Osborne didn't close the Mayfair loophole in the budget, so now it's up to our future politicians.

Please write to your MP and ask them to close tax loopholes.

Chris Carr,
Abbeywood, Skelmersdale

Tell us what you think!
editor@champnews.com

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Jesus (aka David Barton) and his followers in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Passion Play staged by Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 1079509.

Surely, the mayor should be properly briefed before civic visits?

ON Thursday, March 26 I was invited to attend the end of term concert by the children of Elm Tree Community Primary School in Skelmersdale, to which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of West Lancashire were also invited.

The mayoral party was expected to arrive at about 10am for the concert to start at 10.30am but they did not arrive on time.

They went to the wrong school and finally arrived at 11am after the concert had started!

My husband, who is a school governor at Elm Tree, had a conversation with the mayor over lunch and to his amazement was told by the mayor that they had no idea that the school provided education for primary aged children from the whole of West Lancashire who have behavioural and special educational needs.

I feel that the mayor's office should research, as a matter of course, where the mayor is to visit and make sure that the driver knows the correct address and that the mayor is correctly briefed for the visit.

Margaret Rowlands,
Elmers Green, Skelmersdale

A shiny clean bus stop – but no buses! Is this a wind–up?

I LIVE in Shirdley Hill and I was very upset when the No. 300 bus was re–routed last year.

So you can imagine my surprise when I saw two men cleaning the bus stop on Heathy Lane last week – when no buses use this stop any more!

This is very odd behaviour from whoever is responsible and an absolute waste of money – not to mention a bit of a wind–up as we now have a shiny, clean bus stop but still no bus!

Angry former bus user,
Shirdley Hill

Get online pronto to report potholes to county council

WITH reference to the large number of potholes on our local roads, I would urge everyone to report newly–discovered potholes to Lancashire County Council (LCC).

This is quick and easy to do from the homepage of the LCC website, just click on 'Report a Highway Fault' and follow the prompts.

Apart from the obvious road safety aspect, if you are unfortunate enough to have your car, bike or person damaged by an unreported pothole you will be unable to claim compensation from LCC. This is because councils cannot legally be held liable for a defect they are unaware of.

A. Felton, Burscough

Road repair work is long overdue

I AM writing to express my agreement with Mr Perry (Letters, March 25) about the state of roads in the area.

This followed my earlier letter about the danger of potholes and asking what had happened to the money which was promised for this work.

Mr Perry mentions Cottage Lane – yes, what a mess. You have to drive in the middle of the road to avoid the holes in the road and this repair work is long overdue.

Let's get something done!

G. Whittaker, Aughton

Moving letter was positively uplifting

I FELT I simply had to write in praise of the letter headed 'A place to live and a place to die' (Letters, March 25).

It had to be one of the most moving letters I have read on your page.

The love the writer so obviously felt towards their dad oozed out of every word.

Beautifully written and positively uplifting.

Mrs S. O., Skelmersdale

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1139043

Great losers are aiming to become national winners

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

West Lancs pair have sights set on £3,000 prize

TWO slimmers from West Lancashire are aiming to be winners by being great losers!

Rob Constantine from Skelmersdale and Paul Childs from Ormskirk have shed a combined 22 stone between them to to win their respective Slimming World groups' Greatest Losers award.

Now the pair will go forward to the organisation's national finals next month with the chance to win £3,000.

Each of Slimming World"s 12,000 groups in the UK and Ireland have their own Greatest Loser title, awarded to member has lost the most weight who is then put forward for the national crown.

Rob, 60, lost more than 13 stone, while 40–year–old Paul, lost 9 stone 1lb and is now just three stone away from his target weight.

Happier

Now a trim 11st 13lb, Rob previously tipped the scales at the 25–stone mark and struggled to walk, had dangerously high blood pressure and suffered from sleep apnoea.

Now though he says: "I feel like a new man since losing weight – in fact, I look so different that people who I haven't seen for a while often can't believe I'm the same person!

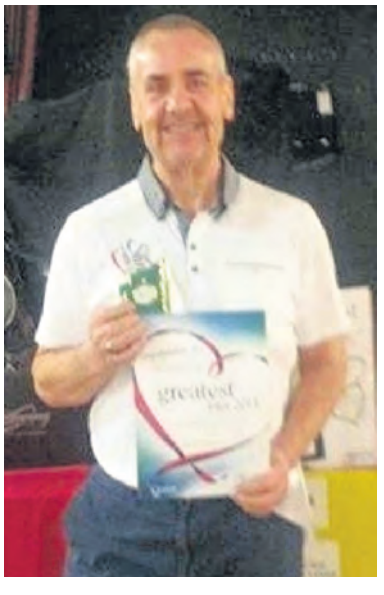
"For me though it's the change on the inside that's been the biggest – I'm happier, healthier and much more confident now."

Paul joined his local group after his wife, Kirsty joined up and lost almost five stone.

And he had another incentive. His mother offered to pay for a trip to New York for the couple if he lost enough weight to comfortably travel on a plane – which he now has and they are looking forward to visiting the Big Apple next month.

Slimming World's West Lancs team developer, Tina Whewell, said: "The changes we've seen in Paul and Rob are incredible. I hope their success will inspire other people in West Lancashire who'd like to lose weight by forming new lifestyle habits and become happier and healthier to take action."

• PICTURED: Paul (top) and Rob with their Greatest Loser awards and certificates.



Would–be MPs to face public Question Time

By Danielle Thompson

A VOLUNTARY association established in 2009 as a 'Voice for Ormskirk' has teamed up with a church group to offer residents the chance to challenge the five parliamentary candidates for West Lancashire in the General Election on May 7.

The Question Time event, organised by Ormskirk Community Partnership and Ormskirk and District Churches Together, will be held at Ormskirk Civic Hall in Southport Road on Tuesday, April 14, starting at 7pm.

Chris Merriman of the Churches Together group will chair the evening which will allow the public to fire questions at the candidates – Paul Greenall (Conservative), Ben Basson (Green), Rosie Cooper (Labour), Daniel Lewis (Liberal Democrat) and Jack Sen (UKIP).

The chair of Ormskirk Community Partnership, Martin Walsh, said: "We're very proud to be working with the churches to bring this event to the people of West Lancashire and give them an opportunity to grill those who wish to represent us.

"This could be one of the most closely–fought elections of a generation and it's important that we, as voters, have the chance to find out what our candidates think about what is important for us.

"Following on from another year of continued growth and success for Ormskirk Community Partnership through increased membership and the roll–out of our Gingerbread Project, we are excited to be hosting such a high profile event.

"We would like to thank the churches and the five candidates for supporting this joint event."

Members of the public are invited to attend and can ask questions on the night or submit them in advance by email to dave.mutch@ocf.org.uk.

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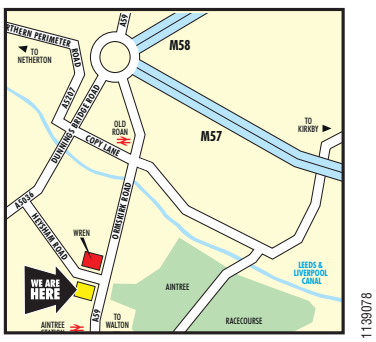

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Council issues advice on postal and proxy voting

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council is reminding residents that they can vote in the general and local elections on Thursday, May 7, even if they can't get to a polling station.

Anyone who is unable to go to a polling station on the day can apply for a postal vote, or a proxy vote where a nominated person can attend to register their vote on their behalf.

Gill Rowe, returning officer for West Lancashire, said: "You don't need to be working away or be housebound to apply for a postal or a proxy vote. Contact the council as soon as you can to apply to make sure you can vote in the elections."

Anyone who wants to vote in this year's elections, either by post, proxy or going to the polling station, must be on the Electoral Register.

Residents can check whether they're registered to vote by calling the elections office on 01695 585014. They can also complete an online registration by visiting www.gov.uk/register–to–vote or www.westlancs.gov.uk/registertovote.

For more information email elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk.

If you do not have access to the internet ask the elections office for a paper registration form.

The closing date to register to vote on May 7 is April 20.

To apply for a postal or proxy vote form call the Elections Office on 01695 585014, email electionsoffice@westlancs.gov.uk or download an application form from the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/elections.

Alternatively you can call in to West Lancs Council Offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Completed application forms for a postal vote must reach the council by 5pm on Tuesday, April 21, and completed application forms for a proxy vote must arrive by 5pm on Tuesday, April 28.

Applications to vote by proxy at this election applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5pm on Tuesday, April 28, must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, West Lancashire, L39 2DF by 5 pm on Thursday, May 7 2015.

Nora celebrates her special day at the double

Hillcroft manager Margaret Sutcliffe toasts Nora Mathews on her 90th birthday

FRIENDS and relatives helped a woman from Aughton celebrate a milestone birthday with a double surprise treat.

Grandmother Nora Matthews, a resident at the Hillcroft residential care and dementia home in Long Lane, enjoyed two celebrations to mark her 90th birthday.

The mother–of–two, originally from Gaw Hill Lane in the village, was treated to a birthday meal at the Lunch Club at the Ministry Centre at Christ Church which she attends each Wednesday.

Then on her return to Hillcroft she was greeted by friends and family and a dining room covered in lilac decorations and 90–themed balloons and banners for a surprise party in her honour.

Nora's father, George was the organist at Christ Church, which she has attended all of her life, and she also attended the church school.

She married her husband, Jack, at the church. The couple had two sons, John and Chris, and three grandchildren and Nora's granddaughter, Tess is set to be become the fourth generation of the family to marry at the church when she ties the knot there in May.

Cheers! Pub raises £700 for charity at the double

Baring up well...pub manager gets the thumbs up after his body–waxing fundraiser. Kirsty starts work on Phil's Comic Relief full body wax at The Farmers Arms Code1078693

BIG–hearted pub regulars have raised more than £700 for charity with two fundraising events – but it proved a bitter–sweet experience for two members of staff.

The Farmers Arms in New Lane, Burscough held a casino–themed night – featuring games including chuck–a–luck, blackjack and roulette – which raised £301.50 for the national Guide Dogs UK charity.

And the canal–side venue also hosted a Red Nose Day event which saw manager, Phil Martin and staff member, Jake Barclay enduring sponsored full chest waxes, courtesy of Kirsty Harris of Stuart James hair and beauty salon in Ormskirk.

The event also featured a hot–dog eating competition and in total raised almost £400 for Comic Relief.

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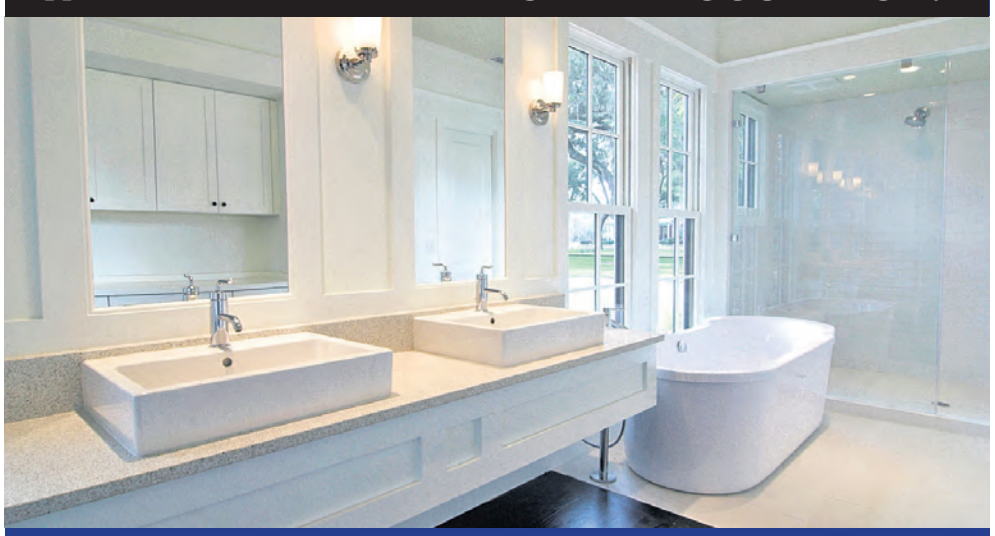

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Top authors on Edge Hill Short Story Prize long list

ORGANISERS of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize have revealed the long list for this year's award.

Now in its ninth year, the competition is the only UK award that recognises excellence in a published collection of short stories and has attracted established names competing alongside relative newcomers for the £5,000 main prize, a £1,000 Readers' Prize and an additional category worth £500 acknowledging rising talents on the Ormskirk university's own MA creative writing course.

The 2015 long–list includes a number of well–established, award–winning writers.

Dr Ailsa Cox, organiser of the prize and reader in English & Writing at Edge Hill, said: "This is a fascinating list with such a wide range of authors and a strongly international flavour. The short story really is a global phenomenon and its home is right here at Edge Hill."

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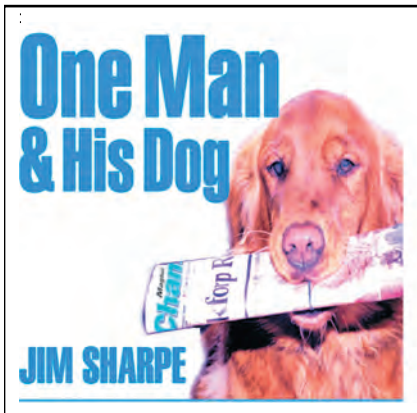

Bus changes are right on time for me

UNEXPECTED consequences.

Well, we've all experienced them and usually the term is used to mean something has gone awry despite the best intentions.

But once in a while it can turn out the other way – and the Arriva bus company has just delivered an unexpected consequence to me which just happens to suit me down to the ground.

Every week, rain or shine, I make two journeys, on Monday and Friday, from my home town of Maghull to Champion Towers in Southport to deliver my deathless prose to the editor.

In fact, it's just about my one concession to the electronic age, if you discount my TV and its associated digital recording machine, of whose vagaries I have written before.

I use a laptop – and old friend of mine, now unfortunately no longer with us was determined that the word was 'lapdog' – which actually makes a fair amount of sense when you think about it.

Now because of my non–computing skills my laptop isn't connected to any kind of computer but I can use a memory stick and simply use this piece of modernity really as a typewriter.

Anyway, back to the buses. For years now I have used Arriva's 300 service from Maghull to Southport and back.

It terminated roughly half–a–mile from the Champion office and I walked there and then back to the bus stop, usually via the shops around the station.

All very good and reasonably convenient.

Then, as 2015 dawned, Arriva in its wisdom started messing about with the 300.

Since January its route and times have now changed three times, which can be a little confusing to a bearer of small brain such as I.

But the latest (and biggest) change came a couple of weeks ago when its route into Southport was changed and its terminus, I read on a notice on the bus, became Union Street.

And that upset me – because not knowing my Southport very well and never having heard of Union Street, I assumed that this was going to mean a much longer walk for me on my visits to Champion HQ on Lord Street.

So imagine my delight when I discovered that Union Street is only yards (or even metres) past the office along Lord Street and only a hop, skip and jump from the Champion's doors.

So really no walk at all to the office – and if I still want to do some shopping I can, at all my usual haunts, and pick up the 300 along its route out of sunny Southport, having no further to walk then than I had before.

A genuine win–win situation.

I haven't actually got to grips with the revised timetable yet, but since the printed notice on the bus mentioned 'some additional services', I reckon it should be fine and dandy.

Unexpected consequences indeed!

It's too early to tell yet, but the 300's route into Liverpool via Bootle has been changed too, which I think might well result in better timekeeping because I have been convinced for years that Arriva got its timings wrong between Bootle and Aintree, resulting in the 300 normally being late at the latter, and hence in Maghull as well.

Could be this is a genuine win–win situation, for me at least, and quite honestly I also believe the new route in Southport will benefit just about everybody else as well.

So please, Arriva, can this be the last revision to the 300 for some time to come?

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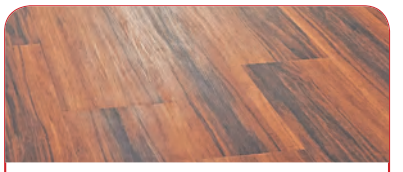

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1139030

Dr Rob Gandy launched an appeal for accounts of ghostly sightings on Halsall Moss

Champ readers rally to appeal for spooky tales of Halsall Moss

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A SEMI–retired doctor who made an appeal for help in tracing the story behind ghostly sightings on Halsall Moss has thanked Champion readers for coming forward.

Dr Rob Gandy, the former director of planning at Fazakerly Hospital appealed through the newspaper in January for any members of the public who had experienced any sightings of a ghostly hitch–hiker on the main route between Southport and Ormskirk during the last 50 years to contact him.

He believes the sightings might be linked to victims of crashes on the route. A Freedom of Information request submitted to Lancashire Constabulary about the number of accidents on New Cut Lane and Gregory Lane revealed there were 85 recorded between May 2008 (as far back as police accident records go on the current system) and February 2015. Of these, 56 resulted in injuries, while in 29 only the vehicles were damaged.

Dr Gandy was particularly intrigued to unravel the mystery of a spooky sighting of a hitch–hiker experienced by a colleague in February or March 1965.

He was driving over Halsall Moss late at night on a Friday from Southport heading in the direction of Ormskirk when a figure appeared in the back seat of his Mini.

However, when he pulled up and got out of the car, the man, who appeared to be aged in his 70s, was gone.

The spooky story was first published in the winter issue of the Fortean Times – an independent publication which explores unique phenomena including far–out theories and beliefs – in 1990.

Now Dr Gandy's updated report, made up of the six new first–hand accounts and two 'second–hand' stories from Champion readers who contacted him, will be published in the April 2015 edition of the Fortean Times.

Dr Gandy told the Champion: "Following the story in the Champion inviting readers to send their own vanishing hitch–hiker stories, I received six new first–hand reports, plus two strange tales.

"I would like to thank all of the respondents and I can vouch for their total sincerity. There are potential psychological explanations involving drivers' concentration because of hazardous conditions, but this does not apply to all of the cases.

"Such a geographical concentration is remarkable, enhancing Halsall Moss's mysterious and atmospheric reputation."

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Sue: 01695 420 305

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(behind Tesco) Aintree Lane
Monday 9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco)
Aintree Lane
Monday 5pm and 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658 **TUESDAY**

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE (Morning Group)
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658

UP HOLLAND (Morning Group)
Up Holland Methodist
Church, Alma Hill,
Tuesday 9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

FAZAKERLEY
Our Lady of Sorrows Social Club
Stopgate Lane/Pirrie Road
Tuesday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sue: 07957 531346

MAGHULL
Royal British Legion
Red Lion Bridge
Liverpool Road South
Tuesday 5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 0151 521 3798

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion Club,
Lord Street
Wednesday 5.15 & 7.15pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

MAGHULL (Morning Group)
Royal British Legion,
Red Lion Bridge
Liverpool Road South
Wednesday 9.30am
Sheila: 0151 521 3798

FAZAKERLEY
British Legion
Longmoor Lane
next to Shell Garage
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

LYDIATE
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Wednesday 4.30pm & 6pm
Marcia: 07976 897074

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am (Morning Group)
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill,
Wednesday 3.45, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON (Morning Group)
Aughton Village Hall
Winifred Lane,
Thursday 9.30am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church),
Long Lane,
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE (Morning Group)
Digmoor Community Centre
Birleywood
Thursday 9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre
Birleywood
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

MAGHULL
St Georges Social Centre
Station Rd
Thursday 5pm & 7pm
Sue: 07957 531346

FRIDAY
LYDIATE (Morning Group)
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Friday 9.30 & 11.30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK (Morning Group)
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Prescott Road, Ormskirk
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"My mum had joined Slimming World and then my sister had her little girl and she wanted to lose her baby weight, she talked me into going along to Slimming World with her.

"At first I wasn't sure going to a group was for me! I was wrong - everyone was so welcoming and all their help has been fantastic.

"Now I love Slimming World - I can fill up on as many 'free foods' as I want and they are everyday foods like lean meat, eggs, fresh fruit & veg, rice and pasta and potatoes! Knowing you don't need to ever feel hungry, miss out on treats like chocolate and still be able to go out and have a few drinks puts you in control and makes eating guilt free.

"I am now 3st lighter! There were times that were not so as easy - Christmas and my 21st but the understanding, support and foodie ideas I got from group kept me on track and I reached my target weight so much quicker than I'd hoped. I feel so much more confident & happy now and love going to buy new clothes. I'm so glad I walked through those doors!"

Rachael's Daily Menu
Breakfast: *Cereal and fruit*
Lunch: *Jacket potato, baked beans and salad*
Dinner: *Chicken curry and boiled rice*
Snacks: *Fresh fruit and small chocolate bar*

If you would like to be become slimmer and happier just like Rachael pop along to a local Slimming World group.

1139018

Care trust chief in NHS top 50

Heather Tierney–Moore

THE chief executive of Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Heather Tierney–Moore, has been named in the Health Service Journal (HSJ)'s Top 50 NHS ceos chosen by a panel of 14 judges.

The list, compiled for the second year, highlights chief executives who have defining characteristics including a 'clear vision' for the future coupled with 'outstanding' leadership and commitment to their organisation and patient care.

She said: "It is an honour to be named on the HSJ list with my peers who do incredible work within their respective organisations.

"This is a challenging time for the NHS overall, however, at Lancashire Care we have an exemplary workforce who are passionate about providing the very best care for our service users and carers."

Church organ class students pass first 'test' with honours

MEMBERS of the first organ class at Christ Church in Aughton have performed their first concert.

Music tutor and singing coach Eunice Woof's students held the Christ Church Music Festival event at the Long Lane church.

Students Eleanor Rowlandson, Florence Coggon, Abigail Parker, Ethan Coggon and Mark Jones were all presented with Honours Certificates after their performance by adjudicator Brian Radford.

• RIGHT: Organiser Denise Bearon, students Eleanor Rowlandson, Florence Coggon, Abigail Parker, Ethan Coggon and Mark Jones holding their certificates and adjudicator Brian Radford

Youth charity appeal for helping hand

OFFICIALS of a charity that provides activities during the summer holidays for youngsters in and around Burscough are appealing for support from local businesses and organisations to boost dwindling funds.

The Grove Activity Programme (GAP), based at the Grove Youth Community and Children Centre, has hosted a wide range of activities for young people aged 8 to 13 during the summer holidays for more than 20 years.

Sue Lamb, activity scheme administrator for GAP said: "We offer a huge variety of activities, both centre–based and off–site, for the young people of Burscough and surrounding areas.

"Over the years we have had average attendances of 40 members per day which speaks for itself.

"We want all young people to benefit from experiences they may be excluded from because of financial constraints or rural or social isolation."

For the first 15 years of its existence the activity programme was fortunate in securing generous funding but over the last five years financial support has been increasingly difficult to come by and this year it's been harder than ever to secure funds.

Sue added: "We would like to appeal to local businesses, schools and churches to support the young people of the community, possibly by staging charity fundraisers on our behalf – like a pub quiz, raffle, sponsored event, treasure hunt, dance/disco, non–uniform or dress–down day or simply a donation.

"We are a small, local registered charity and appreciate every donation we receive."

For further information contact Sue Lamb or Lou Brown telephone 01704 896424 or email sue.activity@gmail.com or liz.activity@gmail.com.

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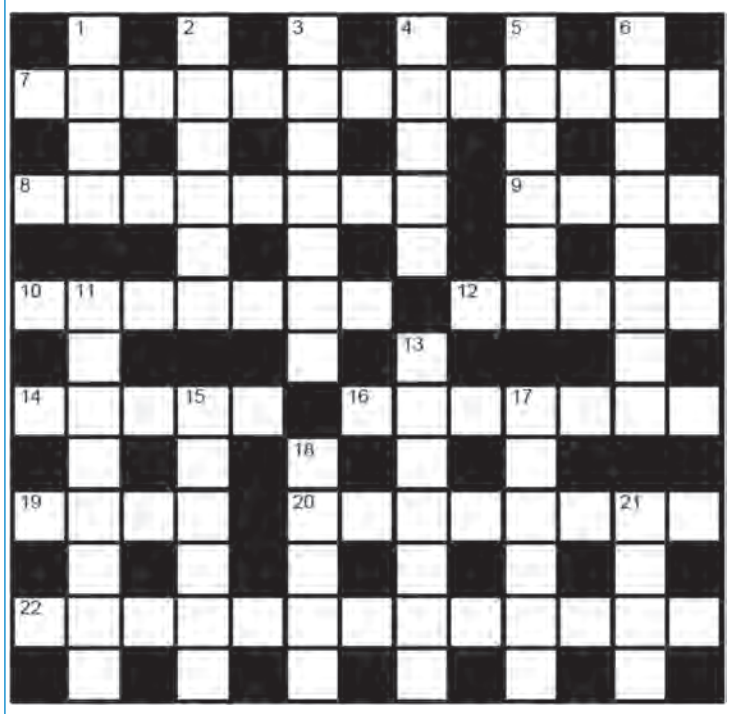

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Across: 7 Pariah. 8 Crayon. 9 Dine. 10 Spillway. 11 Ignoble. 13 Lilac. 15 Tatty. 17 Tragedy. 20 Almighty. 21 Tern. 22 Typhus. 23 Ripple.
Down: 1 Daring. 2 Rise. 3 Ghastly. 4 Acrid. 5 Vaulting. 6 Sonata. 12 Outright. 14 Gruyere. 16 Allays. 18 Darkly. 19 Phase. 21 Type.

ACROSS

7 Unobtrusive (13)
8 Centre of attraction (8)
9 More formal term for on (4)
10 Measure used to indicate the size or carrying capacity of a ship (7)
12 Burly, powerful (5)
14 To bring together (5)
16 Unchanging in character or form (7)
19 Prayer leader in a mosque (4)
20 Waste, debris (8)
22 Without justification (13)

DOWN

1 Covetousness (4)
2 Protective silky case spun by insect larvae (6)
3 Relieve, soothe (7)
4 Compare (5)
5 Stitch or row of stitches holding together the edges of a wound (6)
6 Channel Tunnel rail service (8)
11 Trinket, decoration (8)
13 Forming a single or uniform entity (7)
15 Well known (6)
17 Day of the week (6)
18 Adjust, modify (5)
21 Citrus fruit hybrid of tangerine, grapefruit, and orange (4)

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New store set to join the Gingerbread Trail

Brian Stoddart, of G & E Murgatroyd, cuts the ribbon to open the new store

A GROUP of junior rugby players unveiled a life–size gingerbread man statue to mark the opening of a new convenience store in Ormskirk.

Visitors to the new–look SPAR on Southport Road were treated to free original recipe Ormskirk gingerbread and freshly–ground coffee during the launch event.

The 3,000sqft store has undergone a complete transformation as part of a re–brand by Lancashire–based retailers G & E Murgatroyd.

Junior members from Ormskirk Rugby Club joined representatives from the Ormskirk Community Partnership for the official opening ceremony.

They also helped to launch a competition to decorate the town's second gingerbread statue, which will form part of the Ormskirk Gingerbread Trail.

Nicola Tilley, area manager for G & E Murgatroyd, said: "This is the second of our new–look SPAR stores to open and I'm sure our customers will be thrilled with the end result.

"We are committed to supporting local producers and many of the goods we sell in store are either made or grown in Lancashire."

A competition is now underway to decorate the gingerbread model, which was produced by artist Kevan Wiggins, the man behind the Superlambanana project in Liverpool.

Anyone wishing to enter can collect an entry form from the store. Closing date for entries is Friday, April 24.

A panel of judges will then select the winning design, which will be applied to the gingerbread statue and form part of the Gingerbread Trail.

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Club serves up a welcome

PROSPECTIVE new members are invited to Town Green Tennis Club's next club night on Tuesday, April 14.

The club, which is based at the Parish Courts on Winifred Lane in Aughton, has waived its joining fee for April and May.

Chairman, Julian Falk, said: "The summer season will start at Tuesday, April 14 with a club night at 7pm followed by a social and buffet. This is open for both current members and prospective new members. Families interested in joining are also very welcome.

"The club was established in 1982 and is open to all ages and abilities. Social tennis is offered on Tuesday Club nights and competitive tennis is available with teams running in both the Liverpool and Southport leagues. The club also holds doubles competitions and is hoping to run a winter league.

"On Saturdays morning junior coaching by LTA–registered community coach Bill Dow is available for under–14s and the club also has a thriving U3A section that meets on Wednesday and Friday mornings."

For more information visit www.tgtc.net

A cheer from Aughton Brownies and Rainbows as they complete their World Thinking Day events Code1078459

Guides celebrate World Thinking Day

RAINBOWS, Brownies, Guides and leaders from Aughton celebrated World Thinking Day with sand art and lantern making.

Members of the Aughton Old Hall District gathered for the celebration which marks one of the most significant dates in the guiding calendar.

World Thinking Day is an opportunity for the estimated 10 million Guides and Girl Scouts in 146 countries around the world to think about the diversity of the worldwide membership and show appreciation for each other's lives.

The activities were planned and organised by Claire Walls, a Brownie Guider with the 5th Aughton (St Michael's) Brownies.

District commissioner Joan Stemp said: "Thanks to Claire's hard work the afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks too, to all the Guiders and helpers who came on the day."

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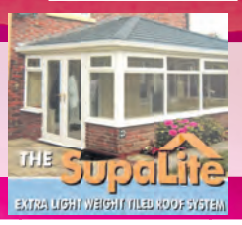

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Chance to nominate unsung heroes for 'alternative Honours List'

WEST Lancashire residents are being urged to put forward friends, colleagues or family members for a new national award for 'unsung heroes'.

The British Citizen Awards (BCA), launched in January this year, recognise individuals who work tirelessly and selflessly to make a positive impact upon society.

The first presentation ceremony saw 28 people honoured at an event hosted by Baroness Cox at the Palace of Westminster.

Now the second wave of nominations are being accepted until the end of this month for the next round of medal presentations which will take place on Thursday, July 9.

All BCA recipients receive a Medal of Honour, inscribed with the words For the Good of the Country, and medallists are also invited to use the initials BCA after their name.

Like the Queen's Honours List, BCAs are awarded twice annually but recognise 'everyday' people whose achievements may otherwise be overlooked.

Mike Faulkner, co–founder of the awards, said: "There are literally thousands of people across the UK making life better for others and until now with no formal recognition open to them. This programme, which many see as an alternative Honours System, enables every individual across the country to nominate someone who they feel deserves to be recognised."

Nominations can be submitted until Thursday, April 30 by email at nominations@britishcitizenawards.co.uk.

Young bookworms hit the gold trail

FOUR young bookworms at Burscough library have completed the Lancashire Reading Trail.

Seven year–old Ciara Patton, brothers Joseph, 9, and Ben Whitehead, 6, and six–year–old Jack Lea, each read and wrote a review for 50 books.

They received a Lancashire Reading Trail Gold award certificate and a free book each.

Carol Young, branch manager at the library in Mill Lane, said: "They have all worked really hard to complete the reading challenge, well done to all of them.

"If any other children are interested in taking up the challenge just go to your local library and ask for details."

Ciara Patton with her award certificate and free book

Ben and Joseph Whitehead with their award certificates and free books

Jack Lea with his award certificate and free book

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County skills programme provides staff training boost for local company

By **Danielle Thompson**

STAFF at a specialist diving company in West Lancashire have benefited from advanced training, thanks to a skills programme jointly promoted by Lancashire County Council and funded by the European Social Fund.

Five workers at Northern Diver, a manufacturer and supplier of specialist diving goods based in Appley Bridge, were able to access management training as part of the £5.6m Lancashire Skills Support for the Workforce (LSS) programme launched in September last year to fund accredited workplace courses and training for businesses and their employees.

LSS has been brought together by the county council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership is and overseen by the Skills Funding Agency.

The programme allowed Northern Diver to invest in up–skilling its workforce through a level 4 introductory diploma in management qualification delivered by the Runshaw Business Centre in Chorley.

One of those to benefit from the training is logistics manager Julia Whittaker, who runs a team of seven at Northern Diver in the warehouse and dispatch departments.

She said: "The qualification has added to my existing people management skills. I've learned how to understand the cultures within companies and introduce change. I find myself using the learning techniques on a daily basis and I feel that productivity and the team ethos has improved on the back of it. I am very interested in progressing and completing the level 5 course."

The team from Northern Diver **Code NA**

And general manager, Ian McLeod who is responsible for the training and development of all staff, added: "Developing leaders through external training is key in the success of the business. As we expand and continue to grow within an international market, we must ensure they quality of work and capability of staff at all levels.

"The Lancashire Skills Support funding has allowed us to assign more people on to the course than we had originally budgeted for, which we are grateful for as it allows more of our leaders to develop, better equipping us for our ongoing expansion."

Got an interesting story to tell?
Champ Newsdesk 01704 392400

Grant funding available for community groups

IF you've got a community project that needs a helping hand, a not–for–profit organisation wants to hear from you.

Proffitts – Investing in Communities has received funding from Lancashire County Council's Central Gateway grants scheme and is now looking to work with community groups throughout the county until the summer of 2016.

They want groups to contact them with their project proposals.

The grant can be used to enable groups to move forward with their project, whether it be to provide a design, assist with consultation and events, fundraising for a project, help obtain planning consent or negotiate with partners.

They can assist with a range of projects including play areas, parks and gardens, youth and community engagement, and community centre improvements.

Martin Proffitt from Proffitts said: "We are grateful to have received a grant from Central Gateway and look forward to meeting new groups and developing new projects throughout the county."

For more details contact Proffitts on 01706 223700.

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Show to celebrate 21 years on stage

Champ has 2–for–1 ticket offer for readers

HELEN Forrester's production of Twopence To Cross The Mersey is set to open at Southport Theatre this Thursday (April 9). It's a very special occasion for the popular stage show as its arrival in the resort will also mark its 21st birthday.

In its earlier format, the musical version of the show had four hugely successful runs at Liverpool's Empire Theatre, in 1994 and then returning in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

To celebrate the milestone, The Champion has secured an exclusive 2–for–1 ticket offer to attend the opening night of the Southport production.

Twopence to Cross the Mersey tells the true story of a young girl and her formerly wealthy family as they are suddenly thrown into poverty during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Leaving behind the nannies, servants and comfortable middle–class life in the South West of England, they uproot their shattered lives and choose Liverpool as the place to start again to rebuild their dreams and fortune. Unbeknown to them however, a terrible shock awaits them.

Rob Fennah (writer ofTwopence To Cross The Mersey), Eithne Browne (who appeared in the very first Twopence) and producer of the new stage play version Bill Elms

To book for her show visit www.atgtickets.com/southport or call 0844 871 3021.

People can purchase tickets at Southport Theatre box office and should quote '21 BIRTHDAY' to redeem the special offer. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is not applicable on tickets already purchased.

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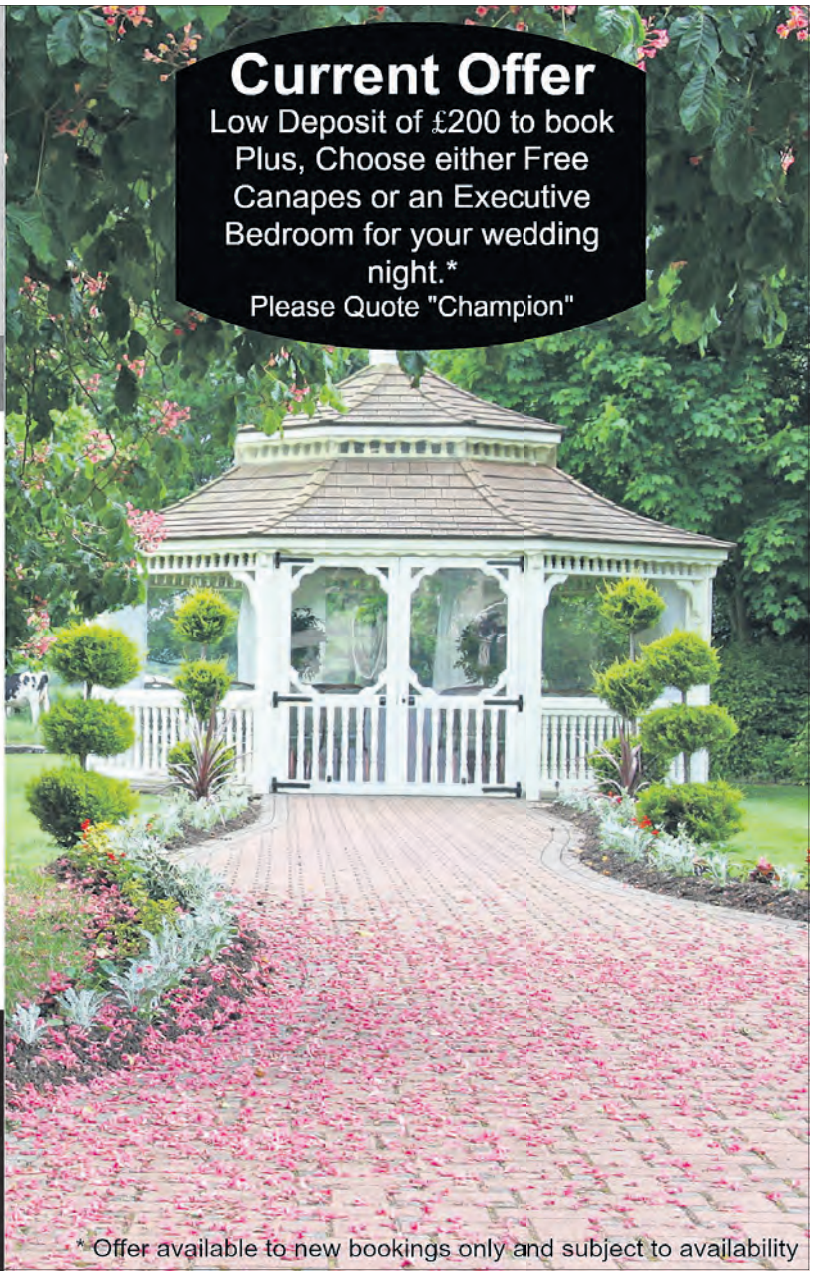
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Persimmon Homes Lancashire has created 56 stunning apartments after a major redevelopment of the historic building. The homes retain many of the traditional architectural features helping to combine character with contemporary living.

The Ainscough Mill apartments sit adjacent to the Leeds Liverpool Canal just off Mill Lane, and are available to reserve now from just £133,995.

Sales advisor Lynn O'Brien said: "Buyers are being quick to recognise that this is an exclusive location that not only offers a wealth of history but the convenience of apartment living. It is easy to see why they are being snapped up so quickly.

"We would urge people to hurry if they want to be a part of this new community and our sales advisors are here to help buyers find their perfect home."

The apartments boast a superb contemporary kitchen, carpets throughout and a personal parking space.

Burscough village lies north of Ormskirk and south of Rufford, on the A59, and offers excellent transport links to Manchester, Liverpool and Preston.

Lynn added: "Schemes such as the Government-backed Help to Buy are also proving popular. Under the scheme, buyers only need a five per cent deposit along with a 75 per cent mortgage while the Government supplies a 20 per cent equity loan."

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

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Guitar duo returning to village

GUITAR duo the Katona Twins are to appear at Parbold Village Hall on Saturday, April 18 at 7.45 pm in Douglas Music's Live Music at the Weekend concerts.

Their evening concert entitled From Madrid to London includes the great Spanish classical and flamenco tradition and popular themes by Tears For Fears and Queen, in Peter and Zoltan's own arrangements.

They recently entertained an audience of primary school children at one of Douglas Music's 'Pied Piper' concerts.

Originally from Hungary, the brothers, Peter and Zoltán, now reside on Merseyside and frequently perform on stage, television, radio and in major concert venues across the world.

They performed live to half a million people in Europe in the 2009 Proms.

The brothers, at Parbold Village Hall, surrounded by an audience seated at their feet, took the 250 children on an magical tour of the world of the guitar.

The internationally famous guitar duo, The Katona Twins, at Parbold Village Hall/community centre Code NA

Club to present Yes Prime Minister

Preview by **Ron Ellis**

PERFECTLY timed as the General Election approaches, this 2012 play version of the legendary television comedy classic sees the Prime Minister, Jim Hacker (Simon Armstrong) presiding over a fragile coalition during the worst economic crisis since the 1930's.

An oil pipeline deal with Kumranistan would entitle the Government to a share of a 10 trillion dollar European loan but when the Kumranistan Foreign Secretary makes a shocking request, moral considerations collide with the nation's economic future.

Hacker, along with Sir Humphrey (Les Gomersall), Bernard (Peter Forshaw) and Special Advisor Clair Sutton (Debbie Bloom) tackle these problems with hilarious results.

Yes Prime Minister is directed by Robin Hirsch with the assistance of Steve Pritchard.

The play runs from this Friday (April 10) to Saturday, April 17 at 7.45pm each evening at Southport's Little Theatre.

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Take a trip down the yellow brick road with SONG

Preview by **Ron Ellis**

SONG, an award winning Youth Theatre group based in Southport has been busy rehearsing for The Wiz, a musical adventure of drama, song and dance.

It tells the story of Dorothy's experience in the Land of Oz with her friends, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion. It is retold in a high energy fusion of rock, gospel and vibrant dance that will keep audiences entertained throughout and is an adaptation of the classic book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum.

This year the musical celebrates its 40th anniversary since its first Broadway production and the musical swept that year's Tony Awards, garnering prizes for Best Score and Best Musical, among others.

Rehearsals began back in September and the talented cast and enthusiastic production team, director Sian Ross Woolley, musical directors Sarah Nicholson and assistant musical director Paul Williams, and choreographer Jenny Birch have been working hard each week perfecting a high quality spectacle to wow audiences with large chorus numbers, complex dance routines and songs with intricate harmonies.

Their members range from age nine to 18 and this year they have welcomed some new member as well as previous members who successfully auditioned for this show.

Matt aged 15 has been a member of SONG since he was nine and said:" I have made amazing friends since being a member, learnt new skills and have developed my confidence. SONG is like a second family."

Zena aged 10 is looking forward to her second show and said: "It's fun and I've gained confidence. I love show week. It's exciting performing with a live audience."

James aged 16 became a member of SONG for the first time this year. He told us: "I've performed with other companies but this is my first show with SONG. I saw an article in the paper about The Wiz and decided to audition. I've made new friends and have had plenty of laughs. I can't wait for the show." Past members of SONG have returned to support the company in all aspects of the production.

Layla Carlin Code NA

The cast are now excitedly trying on costumes thanks to the group's wardrobe mistress Karen Fairclough, who has been extremely busy for months behind scenes aiming to make each character look fantastic.

The show's Dorothy will be Layla Carlin.

The company encourages the audience to fully participate in the show and are invited to come in costume choosing their favourite character from the show!

The show runs at The Atkinson, Lord Street, Southport from Thursday 9 – Saturday, April 11.

editorial@champnews.com

Atkinson hosting Scottish musician

THE Atkinson is to host Scottish musician, singer and songwriter James Grant, who is to make his first appearance at the venue this Saturday (April 11).

He first came to international attention with his band Love and Money where he wrote four classic albums, including Strange Kind of Love.

Recording in New York, he worked with producers such as Gary Katz of Steely Dan and Tom Dowd (who produced Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton and Aretha Franklin).

The Ivy League to come to town

The ever–popular Sixties hit recorders, The Ivy League, of Tossing and Turning and Funny How Love Can Be fame, will be appearing at the Fleetwood Hesketh Club's Star Night this Friday (April 10).

The group is one of the most popular outfits still touring and have a hectic schedule, travelling throughout the U. K. performing for their countless fans, their appearances guaranteed to fill the venues.

The Star Nights at the Fleetwood Hesketh are now well established aiming to offer the audience a great night's entertainment at reasonable cost.

Full support will be provided by Southport's own Sandgrounders with ex–Toad Hall and Folies D. J. Kevin Linden compering the show and playing favourite records from the 60's and 70's.

editorial@champnews.com

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

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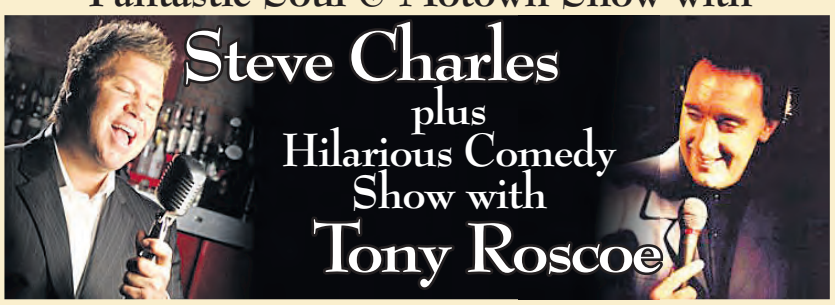

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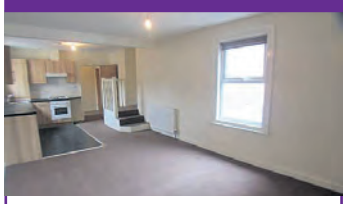
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GLASS TV STAND solid three shelf glass tv stand with crome legs holds up to a 50' television absolute bargain £30 07849969950

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HEADBOARD For double bed, pink padded, good condition £15 01704 231007

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IKEA TABLE cream wooden table seats 6–8 people 29' wide by 58' long good condition £10.00c 0151 924 6393

ILLUMINATED CORNER DISPLAY CABINET Corner cabinet Stokers Sutcliffe 'Nathan' light teak illuminated corner cabinet. Contemporary traditional style, ideal as drinks and display cabinet. Beautiful condition, house move forces sale. Purchased for £1000 but selling £195 Ono. Formby £ o.n.o. 07768654077

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MISC

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FIELDHOUSE WENDY

Roger and family would like to thank all the friends and relatives for their kind messages of sympathy and donations received for North West Cancer Research. Our appreciation to the caring staff at Southport and Formby District Hospital and at Barton Park Nursing Home. Also our thanks to Peter Knight for sensitively leading the services and to Roger Watkinson and others for arrangements at Lord Street West United Church. Also to the staff of The Metro Function Suite and especially to the staff of Howard's Funeral Directors for their excellent service.

1139136

DEATHS

Ball Jennie

Passed away peacefully on 28th March 2015 at Lyndale Care Home, aged 87 years

Much loved wife of the late Jimmy, sister of John (deceased), devoted Auntie, Great Auntie and Great Great Auntie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Good night and God bless. Funeral service and committal to take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 13th April at 11.20am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Further enquiries and donations to H. Johnson & Sons, 1A Ralph Wifes Lane, Banks PR9 8ER. 01704 227067.

1139063

DEATHS

HOWARD PHILLIP

March 27th 2015

Aged 56 Years. Suddenly at home.

Phillip will be sadly missed by all his family. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 9th April at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for R.S.P.C.A (Southport Branch). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1139089

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

QUEENSCOURT 2000 DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Bankfield Lane, Southport

£1500 = 19423 £100 = 28926

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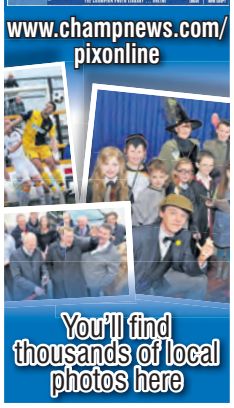

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of the late **Stuart Sykes** would like to express their sincere thanks for the support and sympathy following their sad loss. Thanks to all those who helped organise the celebratory service especially the Rev Peter Hughes. Thanks also to the Masonic Hall and the personal attention given by Carl Howard of Howard's Funeral Directors which was much appreciated.

45415

DEATHS

Butler Brenda

30th March 2015

Peacefully in hospital aged 74 years.

Loving wife of Norman, devoted mum and nanna. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 13th April at 4.00pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Woodlands Animal Sanctuary (Ormskirk). All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

1139147

DEATHS

PARTINGTON PATRICIA

April 1st 2015

Aged 81 Years.

Sadly missed by all her friends at Dovehaven Nursing Home (Alexandra Road).

Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 10th April at 11:20 am. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone 01704 500086.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WIGNALL FLORENCE MARY

The family would like to say a big thank you to everyone for all the help and support which has been shown to them before and after Florence sadly passed away. Thank you so much for all the cards and kind donations for Woodlands Manor. Thank you to all the staff on the EAU Ward at Southport Hospital for everything you did and to all the staff at Woodlands Manor Nursing Home for your loving care. Grateful thanks to Rev. Kevin Jones for your thoughtful ministrations and to Carl Howard and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for the personal, professional funeral arrangements.

1139057

DEATHS

Williams David Leslie

25th March 1950 - 26th March 2015

You never said you were leaving,
You had gone before we knew it.
We lovingly dressed you in your Everton Kit.
You will be sadly missed from wife Gilda, your dad Bert, Mary, sister Diane, children Davina and David, grandchildren Amy, Jordan, Sophie, Katelin, Jazmine, Phoebe and great grandson Henry.
God bless goodnight.

45502

BIRTHDAYS

Adam Barber

10th April 1997

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Happy 18th Birthday Adam
Lots of Love
Mum, Dad & Emily
xxx

6106274

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for one special favour. (mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

AP

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. **KF**

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for one special favour. (mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 - Article 13

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0265/FUL Proposed demolition of former St. Stephens primary school and adjacent dwellings at 6-8 Hoole Lane, for affordable residential development totalling 29 No. units. New dwellings to comprise of 12 No. 1bed/2person flats, 12 No. 2bed/3person semi-detached houses and 5 No. 3bed/4person semi-detached units with associated new access road and hard/soft landscaping at Former St Stephens School, Hoole Lane, Banks.

Application No: 2015/0334/FUL Erection of a new agricultural steel portal frame building for the purposes of both loose and boxed potato storage together with associated hardstanding at East Crantum Farm, New Cut Lane, Halsall.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0295/FUL* Single storey rear extension with link to existing garage. New pitched roof over garage and loft conversion forming two additional bedrooms at 210 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.

Application No: 2015/0311/FUL* Replacement windows at 42 Granville Park, Aughton.

Application No: 2015/0316/FUL* Ground and first floor side and rear extensions at 259 Liverpool Road, Rufford.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

* Householder Applications

In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any comments made will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 8th April 2015
Assistant Director Planning — PDNOT836

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1139104

THE WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) AND (REVOCATION) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Lancashire Borough Council ("the Council") proposes to make the above-named Order in exercise of its powers under Sections 32 and 35 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) ("the 1984 Act"), Regulation 21 and Part IV of Schedule 4 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996 and Part VI of the Traffic Management Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") and all Regulations made in exercise of the 2004 Act. This Order will supercede the West Lancashire Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) and (Revocation) Order 2011 and the West Lancashire Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places)(Amendment) Order 2014. The effect of the Order will be to:

1. increase the length of time that vehicles can park on the short stay Ormskirk Town Centre car parks known as Lunesdale, Bus Station, Market Way and Park Road (rear of the former Tesco store and Church Street) from 2 hours to 4 hours
2. permit free parking for up to 4 hours on the car park at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk on Saturdays.

A copy of the draft Order, plans of the areas affected and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be inspected between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday at the Council Officers, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Any objection or other representations relating to the proposals to make the Order, together with the grounds on which they are made, should be sent in writing to the Director of People & Places at the address given below, and must be made no later than 4pm on 30th April 2015

Dated 8th April 2015
Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor
West Lancashire Borough Council
The Council Offices
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk L39 2DF

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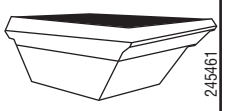

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Nissan's Gym is an April Fool but concept is genius

All jokes aside, car manufacturers need to put an end to the lazy drivers we've become

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER

NISSAN has fired the opening salvo in an unlikely battle for the motor industry. The X–Trail and Qashqai have declared war on your waistline!

The manufacturer has effectively started an automotive battle of the bulge by developing an ingenious system which – and I know it's all about the averages – burns off 1,415 calories on a typical commute. All by pressing a button on the dashboard marked 'Gym' – brilliant!

On the one hand, you've got to applaud Nissan for recognising the nation's motorists are an increasingly bloated bunch and that something had to be done, presumably before the entire road network started to groan beneath their collective weight and slowly sink further into the ground.

Sadly, the ingenious fix isn't actually that ingenious at all, because all it does is take all the driver aids you've paid through the nose for – and then switches them off altogether.

Oh, that and the fact it is an April Fools – with thousands of motoring aficionados falling for the joke. Nissan won't be providing you with a personal trainer or making you shop at Sports Direct rather than Halfords. Sadly you're just going to have to put up with all the gadgets and assistance gizmos they will throw at you to make the driving experience easier. Too easy in my opinion.

As someone who grew up driving Minis and still regularly drives a 43–year–old MGB, I look at all of Nissan's driver assistance gizmos and conclude they – ironically – do little other than add weight.

Yes, the car of 2015 is unbelievably easy to drive, but are the gadgets actually being counter–productive for our waistlines?

The new Ford Galaxy, for instance, can be ordered with a device that does your parallel parking for you. Why? Anyone on a British road should have mastered the manoeuvre by now, so I can only assume anyone who uses it is too fat and lazy to do it themselves.

It's the same with power steering. Parking a MG or a Morris Minor that's a bit heavy at 3mph is not the workout you might expect – it's the entirely normal driving that your granddad would have just got on with, rather than moaning about how difficult it is. Safety devices like ABS are worth every penny, but things like power steering or parking assist are just encouraging us to take the easy option.

All joking aside, Nissan, and indeed, every car maker, should be selling us cars light and efficient enough not to need them in the first place.

The Lotus Elise – the antithesis of everything the mythical Gym button stands for – doesn't have any of these devices and it's all the better for it. Really, it should be prescribed through the NHS to anyone struggling with obesity. It's the healthiest new car you can buy today!

David is the news editor of Classic Car Weekly

All new Ford Galaxy model on sale soon

AN ALL–NEW version of Ford's biggest people carrier will arrive at a showroom near you later this year.

The third generation Galaxy is designed to take seven adults in comfort, with its party trick being that the all five seats in the middle and rear rows can fold flat into the floor at the touch of a single button.

It's also being offered with gadgets that can intelligently limit your speed and help you complete a parallel park automatically.

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05 FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME 3-dr, in met blue, e/windows, c/locking, alloys, A/C £1,895
05 KIA PICANTO 1.0 LX 5-dr (5 Speed) red, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD, low insurance £1,695
54 RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 5-dr, met black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, CD £1,695
04 FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE SPORT 1.2 silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, alloys £1,295
04 SUZUKI ALTO GL 1.1 AUTO, silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, service history £1,495
53 CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE 5-dr, black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, ABS, CD £1,795
52 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA (5 SPEED) silver, leather, A/C, alloys, CD, ABS £1,095
02 MERCEDES CLK COUPE 230 in met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, leather, 1 owner, FSH, alloys £2,295
51 MERCEDES-BENZ C180 AUTO in met silver, PAS, A/C, e/windows, remote locking, alloys, pan roof £2,195
V VW GOLF V5 2.3 (5 SPEED) met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, 18" alloys, 150bhp £1,895

4X4
59 KIA SORRENTO XEi 2.5 AUTO DIESEL in met silver, A/C, alloys, PAS, e/w, c/locking, ABS, 38,000 miles £8,995
56 HYUNDAI TUCSON CDX 2.0 DIESEL 4WD (6 SPEED) in met blue, leather, A/C, ABS, alloys, 64k, s/history £5,295
02 NISSAN TERRANO II LWB 2.7 DIESEL (7 SEATER), PAS, e/windows, c/locking £1,695
V LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8 HARDBACK 2-dr, in red, PAS, e/windows, alloys, detachable top £1,795

DIESELS
11 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 DIESEL, met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, 1 owner, high miles £4,995
54 RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE DIESEL, met blue, half leather, A/C, e/windows, c/locking, CD, service history £1,695
54 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.9 DIESEL (6 SPEED) met blue, PAS, A/C, e/windows, r/locking, alloys £1,695
54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, in met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking £1,395
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59 Mercedes E250 Cdi Se Auto

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• Sat Nav
• Alloys

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• FSH
• Sat Nav
• Leather

NO DEPOSIT

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• FSH
• Air Con
• CD Player
• 7 Seater

NO DEPOSIT £22 A WEEK

Only £4,495

08 Ford Fusion 1.4 Zetec Semi Auto

• Leather
• Alloys
• 46000 Miles
• CD Player

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Only £4,995

58 Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Sxi 5 Dr

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £24 A WEEK

Only £4,995

09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Active 3 Dr

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player
• 53000 Miles

NO DEPOSIT £24 A WEEK

Only £4,995

57 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Sxi 3 D

• 59000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £24 A WEEK

Only £4,995

59 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active 3 Dr

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player
• PAS

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Only £5,495

60 Fiat Punto Evo 1.4 Dynamic

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £28 A WEEK

Only £5,695

59 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Sxi 5 Dr

• 36000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £29 A WEEK

Only £5,995

06 Bmw 118I Sport 5 Dr

• 63000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £32 A WEEK

Only £6,495

07 Mercedes C180 Classic SE Auto 4 Dr

• 59000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £29 A WEEK

Only £5,995

60 Ford Fiesta 1.25 3 Dr

• 28000 Miles
• Alloys
• Priv Glass
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

Only £6,995

11 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Style 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

Only £6,995

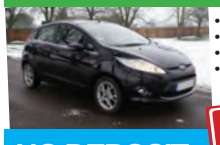
11 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 SE 5 Dr

• New Model
• 1 Owner
• 15000 Miles
• Alloys

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

Only £6,995

12 Ford Fiesta 1.2 5 Dr



• 1 Owner
• FSH
• CD Player
• Ideal 1st Car

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

Only £6,995

57 Audi A3 1.6 Sportback SE

• 46000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £37 A WEEK

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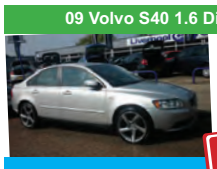
09 Volvo S40 1.6 Diesel

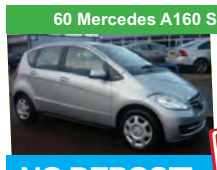


• Alloys
• CD Player
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £39 A WEEK

Only £7,995

60 Mercedes A160 Se 5 Dr



• 33000 Miles
• Air Con
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £39 A WEEK

Only £7,995

60 Pegeot 308 1.6 Hdi Millesim 5 Dr

• 33000 Miles
• Alloys
• CD Player
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £39 A WEEK

Only £7,995

10 VW Beetle 1.4 Lunar

• 20000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

NEW IN £39 A WEEK

Only £7,995

10 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Cdti Elite 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• Leather
• Alloys
• Sat Nav

NO DEPOSIT £42 A WEEK

Only £8,495

61 Renault Grande Scenic D TomTom

• 1 Owner
• 7 Seater
• Sat Nav
• Leather

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

59 Peugoet 308 1.6 Se Convertible

• 28000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• FSH

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

09 Lexus Is220 Diesel Se

• 65000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

12 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Dr

• 33000 Miles
• Alloys
• CD Player
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £47 A WEEK

Only £9,495

11 VW Golf 2.0 Tdi Gt Auto 5 Dr

• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con
• Priv Glass

NO DEPOSIT £49 A WEEK

Only £9,995

13 Ford C Max 1.6 Tdci Zetec

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £10,495

13 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• Appearance Pack
• Alloys

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £10,495

59 VW Passat CC 2.0 Tdi GT

• FSH
• Alloys
• Priv Glass
• 43000 Miles

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £10,995

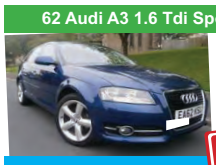
60 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci

• 1 Owner
• 59000 Miles
• FSH
• Priv Glass

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £12,995

62 Audi A3 1.6 Tdi Sport 5 Dr



• Alloys
• FSH
• Air Con
• CD Player

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Only £12,995

61 Bmw 320 Diesel Efficency Dynamiics

• 1 Owner
• 56000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £12,995

60 Jaguar Xf 3.0 Diesel Auto

• 1 Owner
• 59000 Miles
• FSH
• Sat Nav

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £15,995

61 Bmw 520 Diesel Se Auto 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Leather

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £16,995

59 Mercedes Ml350 Cdi Sport Auto

• 46000 Miles
• Priv Glass
• Side Steps
• Upgraded Alloys

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £19,995

60 Bmw X5 3.0 Diesel M Sport Auto

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 20" Alloys
• Leather

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

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60 Discovery 3.0 Td V6 Hse Auto

• 48000 Miles
• FSH
• 7 Seater
• Sat Nav

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2011 (11) RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 TDV6 AUTO AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Buy for only £173 per week

Grey, 41,000 miles, sat nav, heated leather seats/steering wheel, privacy glass, reverse camera, FSH

2012 (62) AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI 245ps AUTO QUATTRO S LINE PLUS

Buy for only £625 per month

Black, 95,000 miles, 4WD, 7 seats, top spec, heated leather, Audi parking system with reverse camera, sat nav

2009 (59) LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0TD V6

Buy for only £500 per month

White, 89,516 miles, top spec, heated black leather, sat nav, cruise, climate, full dealer history

2012 (62) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 TDI (170ps) DSG GTD

Buy for only £81 per week

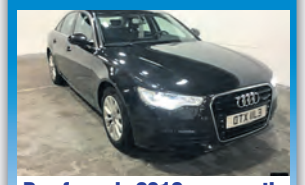
White, 59,000 miles, full black leather, alloys, CD/Aux, E/W, immaculate

2013 (13) MERCEDES-BENZ SPRINTER 313 2.1 CDI LWB H/R

Buy for only £76 per week

White, 60,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, cruise control, Bluetooth, immaculate inside & out

2011 (11) AUDI A6 SALOON 3.0 TDI 245PS S-TRONIC QUATTRO SE 4WD



Buy for only £312 per month

Black, 112,000 miles, top spec, full leather, sat nav, alloys, climate, cruise, Bluetooth, visual park assist, full dealer history

2012 (12) BMW 320 2.0 TD d EFFICIENT DYNAMICS

Buy for only £69 per week

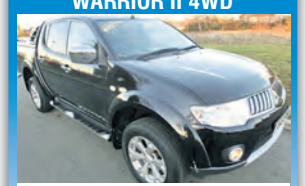
White, 78,000 miles, alloys, Bluetooth, cruise control, CD/MP3, full dealer history

2012 (12) VOLKSWAGEN CADDY LIFE 1.6 TDI CR DSG

Buy for only £64 per week

Grey, 19,000 miles, cruise control, parking sensors, A/C, privacy glass, alloys, cruise control

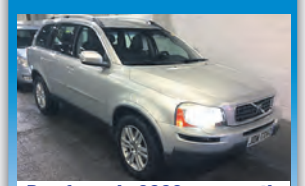
2011 (61) MITSUBISHI L200 D/CAB DI-D WARRIOR II 4WD



Buy for only £62 per week

Black, 50,000 miles, FSH, sat nav, A/C, cruise, Bluetooth, alloys, E/W, immaculate condition

2007 (07) VOLVO XC90 2.4 AWD GEARTRONIC D5 SE LUX



Buy for only £260 per month

Silver, 50,682 miles, 7 seats, full black leather, parking aid, alloys, climate, cruise, full dealer history

2011 (60) VOLKSWAGEN CRAFTER 2.5 TDi CR35 LWB H/R

Buy for only £57 per week

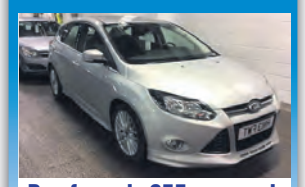
White, 61,000 miles, A/C, cruise control, Bluetooth, 1 owner, immaculate inside & out

2012 (12) FIAT 500C 1.2 LOUNGE S/S CONVERTIBLE

Buy for only £55 per week

White, 18,000 miles, climate control, alloys, full dealer history, CD, part leather

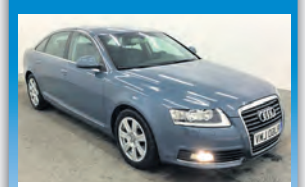
2013 (13) FORD FOCUS 1.0 SCTi ECOBOOST ZETEC



Buy for only £55 per week

Silver, 32,000 miles, Bluetooth, alloys, 1 owner, full dealer history, very well maintained

2011 (60) AUDI A6 TDIe 2.0 SE 4DR



Buy for only £52 per week

Blue, 113,000 miles, FSH, full leather, sat nav, alloys, climate & cruise control, A/C, drives perfect

2012 (12) VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 TDI BLUEMOTION SPORT

Buy for only £48 per week

White, 108,000 miles, satnav, climate, cruise, alloys, full dealer history, 1 owner

2012 (61) VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 2.0 TDi BLUEMOTION SPORT

Buy for only £48 per week

Silver, 105,000 miles, 7 seats, top spec, cruise control, Bluetooth, full dealer history, immaculate

2011 (11) FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi 163 MY TITANIUM X SPORT

Buy for only £48 per week

White, 87,000 miles, top of range, alloys, park assist, leather trim, Bluetooth, full dealer history, stunning car

2012 (12) FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi 115ps TITANIUM X

Buy for only £45 per week

Black, 73,000 miles, full dealer history, cruise control, alloys, A/C, parking sensors

2010 (10) VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT CC 2.0 TDI CR 4DR

Buy for only £45 per week

Grey, 120,000 miles, sat nav, front & rear parking sensors, FSH, alloys, E/W, stunning car

2010 (60) FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCi (140ps) ZETEC

Buy for only £43 per week

White, 110,000 miles, 7 seats, alloys, Bluetooth, full dealer history

2009 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ B CLASS B150 SPORT

Buy for only £41 per week

Grey, 40,000 miles, half leather, FSH, 6CD autochanger, immaculate condition, A/C, alloys

2011 (61) VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi 16v 160ps SRi

Buy for only £36 per week

Black, 106,000 miles, cruise, climate control, E/W, CD/MP3, A/C,1 owner, full Vauxhall history

2011 (60) FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 90 T230

Buy for only £36 per week

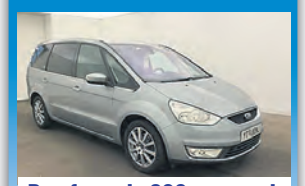
White, 55,000 miles, cruise, CD, E/W, CD, 1 owner, full dealer history, immaculate

2012 (12) VOLKSWAGEN CASSY 1.6 TDi C20 PANEL VAN

Buy for only £36 per week

White, 53,000 miles, full dealer history, roof rails, CD, immaculate

2008 (58) FORD GALAXY 2.0 TDCi 140PS 6SP AUTO GHIA



Buy for only £33 per week

Silver, 117,000 miles, upgraded alloys, parking sensors, tinted windows, top spec, just serviced, stunning

2011 (61) FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi 115 ZETEC 5DR

Buy for only £33 per week

Silver, 109,000 miles, FSH, £20 a year road tax, A/C, alloys, CD, Bluetooth

2008 (08) AUDI A3 1.9 TDI SPECIAL EDITION SPORTBACK

Buy for only £31 per week

Silver, 98,000 miles, FSH, alloys, CD, sunroof, immaculate condition

2011 (11) FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI SPORT 5DR (110) DPF

Buy for only £31 per week

Black, 110,000 miles, sat nav, alloys, E/W, 2 keys, stunning car

2011 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi (95ps) ecoFLEX EXCLUS

Buy for only £31 per week

White, 82,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, A/C, cruise control, climate, E/W, CD/MP3/AUX

2006 (56) RENUALT CLIO SPORT 2.0 VVT (197bhp)

Buy for only £26 per week

Blue, 93,000 miles, A/C, climate, cruise, CD multi-changer, full dealer history, immaculate

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£8,821

• 13 REG •

Peugeot 308 1.6 THP Roland Garros CC Cabriolet 2dr Presented in Pearlescent White, Stunning White Leather interior complete with Airscarf, only 2612 miles from new

£17,000

• 64 REG •

NEW MAZDA 3 2.0 SKYACTIVE-G Sport Nav 5dr Soul Red Pearlescent, black cloth interior, spec includes 18" Alloys, Heads up display Bose Music 495 miles

£18,700

• 12 REG •

Toyota RAV4 2.2 D-4D XT-R 5dr Presented in Vermillion Red, black half leather interior, full history reversing camera full 4X4 33506 miles

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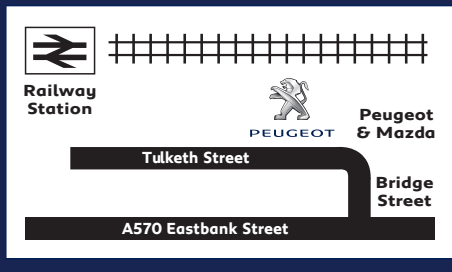

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

^All finance is subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Models shown for illustration purposes only. *We will beat any like for like quote on any new or used car, written quotation required. All prices shwon are full partner prices, associate partners and retail deals will vary. Prices shown are for orders before 30th June 2015 and registered before 30th June 2015. Terms and condition apply to insurance offer on the Vauxhall Adam.

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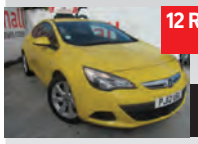

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Grey, 18090 Miles
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White, 29075 Miles
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Silver, 13925 miles
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57 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.2I LIFE A/C AIR BLUE, 43400 MILES £3999
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59 REG VAUXHALL AGILA 5DR 1.0I 12V CLUB STEEL SILVER, 31700 MILES £4499
13 REG CHEVROLET SPARK LS GREY, 26500 MILES £4499
12 REG PEUGEOT 107 ACTIVE BLACK, 20000 MILES £4999
58 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I 16V SXI SILVER, 39500 MILES £4999
60 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.0I 12V ENERGY A/C EFX WHITE, 31600 MILES £4999
60 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.2I ENERGY A/C BLACK SAPPHIRE, 41200 MILES £4999
08 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.6I 16V EXCLUSIV SILVER, 49600 MILES £4999
61 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I VVT EXCITE GLACIER WHITE, 32000 MILES £5499
61 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I VVT EXCITE A/C STAR SILVER, 18800 MILES £5999
12 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2 16V ACTIVE GLACIER WHITE, 15600 MILES £6299
13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I ENERGY A/C FLAME RED, 11700 MILES £6499
62 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I 16V ACTIVE A/C SILVER, 19800 MILES £6799
13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2 16V ENERGY METALLIC STAR SILVER, 8100 MILES £6799
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12 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.6I 16V EXCITE BLACK SAPPHIRE, 41600 MILES £6999
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13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.2I VVT LIMITED EDTN A/C WHITE, 10700 MILES £8499
14 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS DESIGN BLACK, 19200 MILES £8799

62 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ACTIVE WHITE, 21100 MILES £8799
13 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ENERGY CARBON FLASH, 10800 MILES £8999
13 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ENERGY WHITE, 19800 MILES £8999
12 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA COUPE GTC 1.4 TURBO 120 SPORT S/S SUNNY MELON YELLOW, 14100 MILES £8999
13 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.6I 16V EXCLUSIV OLYMPIC WHITE, 10300 MILES £8999
D REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.8I 16V EXCLUSIV SOVREIGN SLIVER, 9300 MILES £9299
14 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.6I VVT 115PS ELITE BLACK, 19100 MILES £10999
14 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8I VVT 140 DESIGN RED, 14500 MILES £11299
51 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS SRI DEEP SKY BLUE, 10600 MILES £11499
13 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA 5DR 1.6 115PS EXCLUSIV ST/SP CARBON FLASH, 9800 MILES £11899
62 REG VAUXHALL ANTARA 5DR 2.2CDTI 16V EXCLUSIV CARBON FLASH, 32400 MILES £11999
14 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC CPE 1.4I TURBO 120PS SRI S/S GREY, 14600 MILES £12499
60 REG MERCEDES-BENZ C180 BLUE-CY SPORT CGI A SILVER, 33900 MILES £12499
14 REG RENAULT CAPTURD-QUE M-NAV ENERGY METALLIC, 9000 MILES £12499
13 REG CITROEN DS5 DSTYLE HDI GREY, 36300 MILES £12499
63 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0CDTI 140 SRI EFX GREY, 14800 MILES £12499
12 REG VOLVO V60 R-DESIGN DRIVE START/ RED, 37600 MILES £12999
14 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0CDTI 140 DSGN NAV EFX SILVER, 18800 MILES £13499
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06 Vauxhall Skelmersdale

63 Reg Vauxhall Combo Van L1H1 2000 1.3 CDTi
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63 Reg Vauxhall Insignia Sri
Black, 31164 miles, Alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Contol
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Blue, 28380 miles, Alloys, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control
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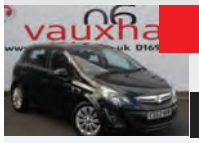
09 Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.0 12V Active
Star Silver, 42243 miles, Alloys, Air Conditioning
NOW ONLY **£3999**



63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa SE
Black, 15358 miles, Half Leather, Heated Seats, Air Conditioning
NOW ONLY **£7499**

63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa SXi AC
Yellow, 16864 miles, Alloys, Air Con, Sunroof, VXR Bodykit
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13 Reg Skoda Octavia SE TDi CR
Silver, 36739 miles, Alloys, Air Conditioning, Bluetooth
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11 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr Hatch 1.4i VVT Excite
Olympic White, 40,000 miles, Alloys, Bluetooth, Air Con
NOW ONLY **£7699**

06 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB SILVER, 62000 MILES £3999
10 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SXI SILVER, 11100 MILES £4999
13 REG CHEVROLET SPARK LTZ GREEN, 29000 MILES £5499
61 REG VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC GREY, 24200 MILES £5499
10 REG VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY BLACK, 36700 MILES £5499
13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY AC PANNACOTTA, 11200 MILES £6999
13 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.2I ENERGY A/C METALLIC STAR SILVER, 13200 MILES £6999
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC BLACK, 12900 MILES £7499
11 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.4I VVT EXCITE OLYMPIC WHITE, 40000 MILES £7699
14 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.2I SE A/C BLACK, 11300 MILES £7799
64 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.2I VVT EXCITE A/C FLAME RED, 2000 MILES £7999
13 REG VAUXHALL MERIVA SE SILVER, 36100 MILES £7999
12 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.4I 16V ACTIVE SOVEREIGN SILVER, 22400 MILES £8499
14 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC WHITE, 20100 MILES £8499
13 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ENERGY SILVER LAKE, 27000 MILES £8999
63 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.6I 16V EXCITE CARBON FLASH, 5000 MILES £9999

14 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 5DR 1.8I 16V 120PS EXCLUSIV WHITE, 6900 MILES £10499
14 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI SILVER, 18100 MILES £11499
13 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV S/S WHITE, 10100 MILES £12499
62 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.7 CDTI 130PS XCLSIV S/S SOVEREIGN SILVER, 19400 MILES £12796
63 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI CDTI ECOFLEX WHITE, 16700 MILES £12996
63 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.4 140 TURBO EXCLUSIV S/S CARBON FLASH, 12600 MILES £12999
63 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER SE CDTI AUT BLUE, 37500 MILES £13699
14 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.6 115PS EXCLUSIV ST/SP S OVEREIGN SILVER, 4100 MILES £13999
14 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV CDTI AUTO BLACK, 17200 MILES £14499
14 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ELITE NAV CDTI A GREY, 15900 MILES £14999
14 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER SRI CDTI WHITE, 10300 MILES £14999
63 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER SRI CDTI BLACK, 19200 MILES £14999
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- Front Fog Lights
- Sports Seats
- Intellilink Audio System & Digital Radio
- Bluetooth® Connectivity
- Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls
- Cruise Control
- Rain-Sensitive Windscreen Wipers

15REG
List Price £12,195
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SAVE £2,196

15 Reg Corsa 1.2 SRI 3dr

SPECIFICATION INCLUDES:
- Air Conditioning
- 16-Inch Alloy Wheels
- Front Fog Lights
- Sports Seats
- Intellilink Audio System & Digital Radio
- Bluetooth® Connectivity
- Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls
- Cruise Control
- Rain-Sensitive Windscreen Wipers

15REG
List Price £11,595
Lookers Price £9,499
SAVE £2,096

15 Reg Meriva 1.4 LIFE

SPECIFICATION INCLUDES:
- 16-Inch Alloy Wheels
- Air Conditioning
- Front Fog Lights
- Bluetooth® Connectivity
- Leather-Covered Steering Wheel
- Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls
- Cruise Control

15REG
List Price £12,995
Lookers Price £9,999
SAVE £2,996

15 Reg Corsa 1.2 Design 5dr

SPECIFICATION INCLUDES:
- Air Conditioning
- Intellilink Audio System & Digital Radio
- Bluetooth® Connectivity
- USB Connection With Ipod Control
- Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls
- Cruise Control
- LED Daytime Running Lights
- Front Fog Lights

15REG
List Price £11,500
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SAVE £1,801

15 Reg Zafira 2.0 CDTi

SPECIFICATION INCLUDES:
- 'Flex7® Seating System
- Air Conditioning
- Anti-Lock Braking System
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- Black Roof Rails
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

Models shown for illustration purposes

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12 Reg Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Ice 3dr

Tempest Black, 28,000 Miles

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10 Reg Citroën C1 1.0l VTR+ 5dr

Scarlet Red, 20,200 Miles

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14 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Design 3Dr [AC]

Carbon Flash, 16283 miles

OUR PRICE **£6999**

63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa Sting 1.2 3dr

Lime Green, 3214 miles

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14 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr (AC)

Sovereign Silver, 12,000 Miles

OUR PRICE **£7499**

14 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr (AC)

Silver Lake, 14251 Miles

OUR PRICE **£7499**

14 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE 5dr

Asteroid Grey, 12521 Miles

OUR PRICE **£7999**

63 Reg Fiat 500 Electroclash 1.2 S 3dr

Grey, 12685 Miles

OUR PRICE **£8499**

12 Reg Nissan Note 1.4 N-TEC+ 5dr

Arctic White, 18900 Miles

OUR PRICE **£7999**

63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Limited Edition 3dr

Flaming Yellow, 4000 Miles

OUR PRICE **£8999**

60 Reg Volkswagen Passat 2.0 Highline Plus TDi CR DPF 4dr

Island Grey, 46225 Miles

OUR PRICE **£8999**

63 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.4i Slam 3dr

Red 'N' Roll, 14730 Miles

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Sovereign Silver, 10 miles

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13 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.0 Ecoboost Titanium X 5dr

Frozen White, 19500 Miles

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63 Reg Vauxhall Combo L1 Diesel 2000 1.3 CDTi 16V Ecoflex H1 Van

Magnetic Silver, 9399 Miles

OUR PRICE **£10799**

64 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi Ecoflex Limited Edition 3dr

Flame Red, 10 Miles

OUR PRICE **£10995**

62 Reg Mini Countryman 1.6 One 5dr

Crystal Silver, 13500 Miles

OUR PRICE **£11999**

14 Reg Vauxhall Combo L1 Diesel 2000 1.3 CDTi 16V Ecoflex H1 Van

Polar White, 14522 Miles

OUR PRICE **£11999**

14 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i VVT SRi Nav 5dr

Emerald Green, 11254 Miles

OUR PRICE **£11999**

12 Reg BMW 118i Sport 3dr

Space Grey, 35887 Miles

OUR PRICE **£12499**

63 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr Auto

Silver Lake, 22651 Miles

OUR PRICE **£13699**

14 Reg Vauxhall Mokka 1.6i SE 5dr

Carbon Flash, 11355 Miles

OUR PRICE **£13999**

64 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Ecoflex VX-Line Nav 5dr (S/S)

Power Red, 16450 Miles

OUR PRICE **£15999**

14 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0T 16V VXR 3dr

Summit White, 4544 Miles

OUR PRICE **£20999**

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2014

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £99

Cash Price..... £5,940
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £99
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £5,940
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL CORSA

2014

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £139

Cash Price..... £8,340
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £139
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £8,340
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

CITROËN C1

12 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £99

Cash Price..... £5,940
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £99
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £5,940
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

KIA PICANTO

11 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £119

Cash Price..... £7,140
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £119
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,140
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL MERIVA

12 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £139

Cash Price..... £8,340
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £139
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £8,340
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

KIA RIO

61 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £129

Cash Price..... £7,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

FIAT PANDA

2008 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £79

Cash Price..... £4,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £79
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £4,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

CITROËN C3

2010 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £99

Cash Price..... £5,940
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £99
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £5,940
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL ASTRA

59 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £109

Cash Price..... £6,540
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £109
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £6,540
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 SZ3

2011 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £124

Cash Price..... £7,440
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £124
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,440
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

FIAT PUNTO

2013 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £129

Cash Price..... £7,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

CITROËN C3 PICASSO

2012 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £129

Cash Price..... £7,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

PEUGEOT 207 HDI DIESEL

2012 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £129

Cash Price..... £7,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE

2012 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £139

Cash Price..... £8,340
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £139
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £8,340
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

12 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £229

Cash Price..... £13,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £229
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £13,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

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1131468

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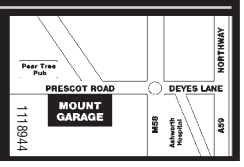

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Linnets bounce back to hold promotion chasers

Burscough celebrate their equaliser. Pictures by Debbie Manifold.

Burscough 1
Bamber Bridge 1

FOLLOWING Saturday's disappointing 4–0 defeat away to Harrogate Railway Athletic, Burscough were looking to bounce back in their second match of the holiday weekend when they welcomed promotion chasing Bamber Bridge on Easter Monday.

Things started badly for the Linnets, though, as they found themselves trailing thanks to an early goal by Darren Green for Bamber Bridge in the 12th minute.

As half time approached it seemed likely that the visitors would maintain their advantage going into the break but Burscough levelled in the 40th minute with a good finish from their player/manager Mark Beesley.

The second half got off to a slow start but on 70 minutes the hosts created two good chances in quick succession through Paul Jewell and goalscorer Beesley but neither were able to convert.

From there on it was the visitors that created the majority of the opportunities but they were unable to find a way past the stubborn Burscough defence and the match eventually ended in a 1–1 draw.

While Burscough will be encouraged by a resilient performance against a much higher placed opponent, Bamber Bridge will feel disappointed to leave Victoria Park with a single point that still leaves them needing two more victories to guarantee a play off place.

Burscough challenge for the ball by the touchline at Bamber Bridge.

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Skelmersdale fightback thwarted at Rushall

Skelmersdale United 1
Rushall Olympic 2

AFTER struggling to get going for the opening half–hour Skelmersdale United fought back well on Saturday and in the end were more than a little unlucky not to have reaped a point if not all three against their opponents from the West Midlands, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow*.

Skelmersdale found themselves 2–0 down inside 26 minutes as they didn't deal with the threat posed by Rushall striker Aaron Williams, who is a man on a mission. Vying at the top of the Evo–Stik Premier Division goalscoring charts with Buxton's Liam Hardy, the two goals he left Stormy Corner with certainly helped his cause.

Williams struck his first in the ninth minute, storming through a gap on the left side of the home defence before driving the ball low into the far corner.

The forward's second had more than an element of fortune about it as he got the merest of touches to a cross from Jake Heath in the 26th minute, to divert the ball home.

From that point onwards Skelmersdale were the better team.

Ben Tollitt put in a 25–yard shot on 34 minutes but saw it curl just wide of the Rushall goal.

He was then thwarted by Rushall's Ryan Price who had an inspired afternoon, the former Telford keeper diving low to his left to keep out Tollitt's side–footed attempt after a fine overlap by Valtar Fernandes put the ball to his feet.

In the five minutes before the interval Skelmersdale had three viable moves.

Batiste Cande fired wide, then Rob McIntosh had a goalbound shot blocked, before a Shaun Holden cross agonisingly failed to get a touch with the Rushall goal gaping.

In the 50th minute Dan Mitchley was unlucky, his shot hit the foot of the post, then just to confound matters the rebound fell perfectly for a Rushall defender as a host of Skelmersdale players were poised to strike.

Rushall had a brief period on the attack, first Carl Palmer wildly slashed the ball over the Skelmersdale bar after he had created the opening himself, then Williams wasted a hat–trick chance by firing into the side–netting on 62 minutes.

After that it was all Skelmersdale. Tollitt went close again on 69 minutes then on 73 minutes Mitchley was pulled back by Mick Townsend.

The resulting free–kick wasn't cleared and eventually the ball fell to McIntosh, who showed his forwards just how to finish and at the same time won the 50005 Taxis Man of the Match award.

Rushall were now falling back in numbers and when they did counter the run was not at goal, but annoyingly a series of moves to the corner flags, where they did their best to keep the ball for as long as possible.

Skelmersdale supporters thought they had grabbed a point in the 82nd minute.

Fernandes had a shot palmed aside by Price and the ball ran diagonally to Tony Rendell, who blasted it back into the roof of the net, only to turn and see the flag raised for offside.

It was unclear from the stand as to whether it was, but many home supporters disagreed.

The final move saw Tollitt cut in from the right, but his left–foot shot went just wide.

With a bit of luck in front of goal Skelmersdale would have won the game, but if you concede two early goals you make it very difficult for yourselves and very easy for your opponents to defend for the rest of the game.

Mariners make it a miserable Easter for Skem

Marine 1
Skelmersdale 0

AS 1–0 wins go this was pretty comfortable for Marine, with Skelmersdale restricted to very few sights of goal by a tremendously committed and passionate display from the resurgent Mariners.

Ben Tollitt fired in a 25 yard effort for the visitors which Matt Cooper couldn't hold in the home goal, but former Marine striker Danny Mitchley was flagged offside as he tried to turn the ball home.

That was as close as the Blues came in the first half, Lloyd Ellams also going close for the Whites with a header off target from James Short's left wing cross.

Alan Burton went close for Skem early in the second half when his run and looping shot dropped just wide of the far post.

But the Mariners continued to have the better of proceedings, Karl Clair's low shot going wide and then Menagh's cut in finding the midriff of James.

The Mariners looked likely to grab a second and they came very close to doing so at the death when Andy Owens nicked the ball off a defender but seeing his shot again saved by James, the rebound looped up for Karl Clairto head towards goal, with a covering defender on the line denying him a goal.

editorial@champnews.com

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